

King Abdullah condoled by Pope

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Apostolic Nunciature in Jordan makes available the text of the message sent by His Holiness Pope John Paul II to His Majesty Abdullah Ben Hussein on Feb. 8, 1999: "Deeply saddened at the death of His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal, I send heartfelt condolences to you, to the Royal family and to the government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In my various meetings with the late King, I was struck not only by his firm desire to serve the interests and well-being of his own people but also by his unflinching commitment to the quest for stability and lasting peace throughout the Middle East. This is a legacy which must live on: For no greater tribute can be paid to the King than the pursuit of this task which was so dear to him. I pray therefore that you will be granted strength and wisdom as you seek to lead your country and its people towards that peace and harmony for which your father toiled so courageously and tirelessly. Commending King Hussein to the All Merciful God, I invoke upon Your Majesty and the Jordanian nation abundant divine blessings."

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King Hussein laid to rest

By Ghadeer Taber

AMMAN — Drawn together in their grief, world leaders and Jordanians Monday laid to rest His Majesty King Hussein in a resplendent state funeral culminating a day of anguished mourning and tributes for Jordan's beloved King.

Kings, presidents and dignitaries from more than 50 countries joined millions of Jordanians in mourning the death of King Hussein, who reigned nearly half-a-century on the Throne.

In the simplest of white shrouds the King's body was lowered by his sons into a grave in the family cemetery on the Royal Palace grounds as thousands of Jordanians and their guests looked on in sadness, many blinking back tears at the loss of a leading world statesman.

King Hussein made his last journey through Amman's streets on a flower bedecked gun carriage accompanied by a motorcade of red jeeps commencing from Bab Al Salam Palace to his final resting place next to the graves of his grandfather, King Abdullah, and father, King Talal.

Nearly one million Jordanians, braving near-freezing temperatures and gusty winds, lined the capital's streets to bid farewell to their King.

Three helicopters hovered low in the grey-veiled skies as the country's military, out in full force, patrolled the streets. Another million mourners attended rites elsewhere in the country in a remarkable sign of love and grief.

In mosques around the country, imams performed the prayer of the absent.

The procession took the 63-year-old King, who died Sunday after a seven-month battle with lymphatic cancer, past his

former home of many years, Al Nadwa Palace.

Sombre leaders from more than 50 countries, including U.S. President Bill Clinton leading a delegation of three former presidents, Syrian President Hafez Assad, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, European and Gulf royalty, and Israeli politicians, filed past the coffin laying in state in the Palace Throne Room.

King Abdullah, Royal family members and senior officials solemnly stood watching as Jordanians and international figures paid their respects. Many of the delegations from Muslim countries paused to read the customary Fatiha prayer.

Clinton, flanked by former Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and George Bush, lowered their head in prayer. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton accompanied her husband to Amman, but in keeping with Muslim practices, did not attend the formal procession and prayers. A pale Queen Noor and other female members of the family, draped in black and wearing white headscarves, were briefly seen at the entrance of Bab Al Salam, braced together as the casket left the palace.

Visiting dignitaries, including Spain's Queen Sofia and the U.S. first lady, were received by the Queen for condolences in separate ceremonies at the palace of the late Queen Zein Al Sharaf.

"It is an extremely strong statement to the people of Jordan that America stands with them during this difficult period," Clinton's National Security Adviser Sandy Berger was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

Many Arab and Western countries, anxious to see a smooth transition to King



His Majesty King Abdullah carries the coffin of King Hussein along with Crown Prince Hamzah, Prince Rashid, and Prince Hashem following the funeral prayers at Bab Al Salam Palace on Monday (Reuters photo)

Abdullah's rule, pledged economic assistance to the country, grappling with a recession and a \$6.5 billion debt burden.

Assad, in a rare trip abroad, was the first foreign leader to pay his condolences to King Abdullah after the burial. He later met with the new King,

Earlier, Assad, who had cool relations with King Hussein over the Kingdom's peace treaty with Israel, held lengthy talks with Prime Minister Fayez Turaymeh.

Setting aside their differences and leaving domestic concerns behind, world leaders gathered

in Amman to pay their respects to the longest serving ruler in the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah, Spain's King Juan Carlos, Oman's Sultan Qaboos, French President Jacques Chirac, Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, Palestinian

leader Yasser Arafat, Britain's Prince Charles and Premier Tony Blair, World Bank head James Wolfensohn, and United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan were among the many who came to mourn a leader, lauded around the world as a man of peace and a true friend.

King Hussein's death brought together enemies, including U.S. and British leaders with Iraqi Vice President Taha Mubiddin Ma'aruf as well as antagonists Syria and Israel. It was the first time Assad attended an event where Israeli leaders were also present.

Reflecting the popularity of the King in Israel, a large delegation, led by President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, attended the funeral.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, unmistakably ill, also came to Amman but did not file past the King's coffin, unable to climb the steps into Raghadan Palace. Accompanied by his doctors, he flew home immediately.

King Abdullah, sworn in hours after his father's death and who has pledged to follow his father's policies, led prayers at Hamzah Ben Abdul Moteleb Mosque in the final act before the burial.

The new King, who stood stoically throughout the five-hour funeral, held several meetings with visiting heads of state, including Clinton, Chirac, Arafat, Britain's Prince Charles and Prime Minister Blair, Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito, and Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah following the funeral ceremony.

King Hussein flew back home from a United States hospital Friday in critical condition after a bone marrow transplant failed to arrest a relapse of cancer, one month after doctors said he was fully recovered.

A few hours after the King's death was announced, Crown Prince Abdullah, who was designated heir to the Throne on Jan. 25, was proclaimed King. He has pledged to continue his father's policies and called on Jordanians to unite.

The new King's first official decree, issued the same day, was to name his 18-year-old half-brother Prince Hamzah as Crown Prince. The new Crown Prince is Queen Noor's eldest son.

World pays respects to King Hussein on his final journey

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein made his final journey Monday through grief-stricken crowds who bid an emotional farewell to their much-loved ruler.

The late King's bereaved five sons — His Majesty King Abdullah, HRH Prince Faisal, HRH Prince Ali, HRH Crown Prince Hamzah and HRH Prince Hashem, carried their father's coffin from his home, Bab Al Salam on the first stage of a resplendent funeral procession taking the Monarch to his final resting place.

They passed the casket — to eight pallbearers — all army colonels wearing black armbands. The casket was then carried between two rows of honour guards to a gun carriage as military music was played.

Draped in the green, red, white and black Jordanian flag, the King's coffin travelled the 20-kilometre route through the streets of the capital to the old Royal Palaces complex which also houses the Hashemite burial ground.

More than 50 world leaders, including U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, streamed to Jordan to pay their last respects to King Hussein, the region's longest-serving ruler, who died on Sunday of cancer, aged 63.

Nearly one million Jordanian men, women and children lined the streets under heavy grey skies as the procession bearing the body of their beloved King headed towards the burial site.

Most were carrying black flags and posters of the late Monarch, who turned their Kingdom into a modern nation from a tiny underdeveloped state.

Many slapped their faces, wailed and sobbed, some near hysteria as the cortege approached.

The gun carriage, laden with white flowers, was escorted by 16 red army jeeps and followed by a



Crowds surround the motorcade carrying the coffin of King Hussein during his funeral procession Monday (AFP photo)

convoy of cars carrying Jordanian officials, politicians and dignitaries who flocked to Amman from all over Jordan.

Male members of the Royal family, including King Abdullah, began arriving at Raghadan Palace near the Royal Cemetery, where King Hussein was to be buried next to his father, King Talal, and his grandfather, King Abdullah, founder of modern Jordan.

Foreign heads of state including Syrian President Hafez Assad, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Israeli President Ezer Weizman, French President Jacques Chirac and Czech President Vaclav Havel greeted each other in the solemnity of the palace

courtyard. Many guests called the procession "funeral of the 20th century." Outside the Palace, members of the Royal Guard, dressed in khaki uniforms and the traditional red-and-white kiffiya, formed a guard of honour.

Along the route, mourners tossed flowers at the cortege as it went by, and some ran along the road trying to keep up with the procession. In some areas police were forced to join hands forming a human barrier between the crowds and the official cars, as helicopters hovered overhead.

As crowds surged forward, breaking through police lines, the cortege was forced to a halt nearly

100 times.

The route through the city took the funeral procession past Al Hussein Medical Complex, where King Hussein on Sunday succumbed to a seven-month battle with cancer.

As the procession inched closer to Raghadan Palace, scores of weeping Jordanians started chasing the cortege, and traffic on bridges across the route came to a halt.

Crowds were chanting "Allahu Akbar (God is Great) and Allah Yurhamak (May God have mercy on you).

The wall of Koranic verses hung in the air.

The throngs swelled as the procession approached the gates of the downtown palace, with thousands

of people swarming behind or next to the gun carriage carrying King Hussein's body.

The cortege wound through the Royal Palace grounds and entered the gates of Raghadan Palace as soldiers saluted their fallen Supreme Commander.

King Abdullah and Royal family members, flanked by a guard of honour, formally received the casket, carried by the eight pallbearers as the Jordan Armed Forces band began to play.

The coffin was carried into the Palace and placed in state in the Throne room, in the direction of the Holy City of Mecca.

The eight officers, many with tears welling up in their eyes, saluted their late Monarch and stepped away.

The flag of the Royal family was draped across the Jordanian flag covering the casket as four Circassian guards, the King's ceremonial guard, stood at each corner.

King Abdullah, followed by his four brothers, his uncles HRH Prince Mohammad, HRH Prince Hassan, cousins, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad and Prince Rashid Ben Al Hassan, other male members of the Royal family as well as the prime minister and top military, police and intelligence officials, arrived at the Throne room to pay their respects.

Later, cousins and distant relatives, followed by former prime ministers, Royal court chiefs, Cabinet ministers, senators, deputies and senior government employees filed towards the casket bowed their heads or recited verses of the Holy Koran, then proceeded.

Russia's ailing President Yeltsin arrived at the palace helped by two aides as he walked slowly up the steps. However, he could not make it to the Throne room, prompting King Abdullah to meet Yeltsin halfway through before he was rushed back to the airport.

Visiting foreign dignitaries,

including Arab leaders, proceeded into the Throne room at the ceremonial Palace to pay their respects.

Syrian President Hafez Assad, whose last-minute arrival for the funeral took many officials by surprise, stopped for several seconds at the casket along with Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa. The three held up their hands in prayer.

Others filing past included U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Outside the palace, heads of state and princes including President Clinton rubbed shoulders as they waited to move up the steps into the Throne room.

Clinton, along with former presidents George Bush, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, paused in front of the casket for a few seconds, their heads bowed and hands clasped. A large delegation of American dignitaries paid their respects.

Others to file past included Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, who visited King Hussein at the Mayo Clinic last year, where he was receiving chemotherapy.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and French President Jacques Chirac joined the throngs of princes representing all of Europe's royal families, heads of state and governments from Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak paused briefly, before giving way to a delegation from Britain including Prince Charles and Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah was one of the final foreign dignitaries to pay his respects, in a sign of improving ties with Jordan after almost nine years of tension since the 1990 Gulf crisis.

Outside, the unprecedented gathering of world leaders waited as Jordanian officials prepared to take the casket to the Hamzah Ben Abdul Moteleb mosque for prayers

before the burial ceremony.

The Hashemite flag was removed from the casket and folded and presented to King Abdullah, who read the "Fatiha," the first verse of the Koran, a traditional Islamic custom at funerals.

Eight Jordanian officers lifted King Hussein's casket, now shrouded only in the national flag, on to their shoulders and carried it from the Throne room on to a gun carriage outside the Palace doors. In the background, bereaved mourners could be heard outside the palace's lower gate, amidst church bells and mosque sermons from across Amman.

The procession moved off slowly towards the mosque after a cannon salute, led by a military band playing bagpipes and drums.

Before the paying of respects, a riderless Arabian horse named Ann, the King's favourite stallion, was led into the palace compound with a pair of empty boots in the stirrups, facing backward.

Jordanian army officers, who carried wreaths sent by all visiting leaders and dignitaries, again formed a guard of honour around the coffin, followed by the white stallion and 10 medal-bearers.

Jordanian officials linked arms as they led the sea of foreign visitors through the palace grounds towards the mosque inside the compound, the sun finally breaking through by mid-afternoon.

Eight army officers once again lifted the coffin from the gun carriage on to their shoulders and marched slowly into the simple white stone mosque for the funeral service.

Inside, King Abdullah and the Royal family attended the afternoon prayers in line with Islamic tradition and were joined by numerous Muslim leaders for 20 minutes of prayer inside the mosque while a number of other world leaders waited outside.

(Continued on page 12)

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's death



Queen Alia remembered

TODAY MARKS the 22nd anniversary of the tragic death of Queen Alia, who passed away at the age of 28 in a helicopter crash while returning from an inspection trip to a Talfeh hospital.

Queen Alia, born Alia Baha Uddin Toukan, married His Majesty King Hussein in December 1971. They had two children, Their Royal Highnesses Princess Haya and Prince Ali, and they adopted Amir Moheisen in 1972.

Tarawneh: King Abdullah to follow father's footsteps

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein will follow in the footsteps of his father the late King Hussein and will maintain Jordan's distinguished ties with the Arab and foreign countries, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh said Monday.

Jordan has been dealing with the Arab sister countries and the other nations of the world within the framework of a policy drawn up by the late King Hussein and there is no reason to change this policy, Tarawneh said in remarks made to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, at Queen Alia International Airport.

Tarawneh said King Hussein has passed away in peace "which was quite apparent on his face after death because he is a leader who had spent his life as a man of peace."

The prime minister dismissed any fears about the future of Jordan in the absence of King Hussein, saying: "We have witnessed what we had expected — the sympathy, the noble feelings and the kind words of

solidarity from the leaders of the world as well as those of the Jordanian people. There is no fear over the future of Jordan, a country with a solid stand and united people. The people of Jordan are overwhelmed by sadness at the moment but their love for the homeland and the late King Hussein and their affection for His Majesty King Abdullah give us strength to move ahead."

"I would like to reaffirm to the world that we are standing in one line rallying behind King Abdullah and there is no doubt about this and there is no room for retreat in a country in which the late Monarch had laid the foundation of institutions, transforming Jordan into a state of law," added Tarawneh.

Citing the swearing in ceremony of King Abdullah before both Houses of Parliament, Tarawneh said: "You have all seen the smooth transition of power in Parliament where King Abdullah took the oath and assumed his constitutional powers."

Jordanians line Amman's streets to bid farewell to King

By Ahmad Khatib

AMMAN — Grey skies and a damp cold cast an added pall over Amman as around one million Jordanians with heavy hearts quietly lined the streets on Sunday to bid farewell to their beloved King Hussein, who died from cancer a day earlier.

Men, women and children from all walks of life streamed to the streets of the procession to catch the last glimpse of the flag-draped coffin carrying the body of "the King of hearts."

They were in pain — nearly 80 per cent of the 4.2 million population have known no other ruler than the King and often dubbed him a father, a brother and a leader.

"God is great," "God show mercy on you" and "With our blood and soul we sacrifice our lives for you," mourners cried, their voices raised to a pitch as the coffin resting on a flower bedecked gun carriage passed by and helicopters hovered overhead.

Defying cold weather temperatures, they wept, waved black flags and threw white flowers and lilies at the motorcade.

The murmurs of men praying mixed with the wailing of pained women and weeping of men — many of whom used their red-and-white traditional kiftiyehs to wipe streams of tears away.

The outpouring grief was palpable. Many mourners fainted. Palace officials said there were over 100 attempts by saddened people to throw themselves at the cortege, forcing policemen and members of the Royal Forces to encircle the hearse.

The funeral of the King, who lost a seven-month battle with cancer, was not only an enormous emotional outpouring for Jordanians. With over 50 worldwide presidents and emirs, representatives of Europe's main royal families and other leading politicians, many participants dubbed it the "funeral of the 20th century."

King Hussein's five sons, including Jordan's new King Abdullah, carried their father's coffin from inside his Bab Al Salam Palace (door of peace) signalling the start of the King's final journey.

Her Majesty Queen Noor and other female members of the Royal family, all dressed in black with white headscarves, watched weeping as the men passed the coffin to eight army colonels in black armbands.

They placed it on a military jeep for a sombre 20-kilometre journey to Raghdan Palace for burial at the Royal Cemetery next to the King's father, His Majesty King Talal and his grandfather, His Majesty King Abdullah, the founder of modern Jordan.

The car was escorted by sixteen red army jeeps, followed by a convoy of cars carrying Jordanian dignitaries.

"I stand speechless, said 30-year-old Khalil Nasser. "Had it not been for my belief in God and fate, my mind would have stopped to function."

Other women wailed: "Oh our King, you cannot die. God help us."

Many younger men and women ran for miles behind the cortege, desperately trying to reach their leader.

Police pushed the surging people when they lurched forward towards the casket and broke barriers near the Interior Ministry tunnel, where a large portrait for King Hussein covered most of the six stories of the Housing Bank Centre.

The anxious wait of the country's population was broken at midday Sunday, when a shocked news presenter went on state television to announce that King Hussein had died at 11:43 a.m. after losing a seven-month battle with cancer.

"This loss is too big for us to take, he was our father, he knew many of us by name and he drank and ate with many of us," said a tribal leader. "But, we must over-

come our pain and sorrow and remain loyal to the King's policies and legacy," he added.

Government offices were ordered closed until Saturday, and flags flew at half-mast over official buildings.

A group of nurses outside the Al Hussein Medical Centre, where King Hussein succumbed to cancer slapped their faces and wept as the cortege passed by.

Rooftops on the road where the procession passed were filled with people, many waving flags. Recordings of the Koran were played in many houses and over mosques' loudspeakers in a sign of mourning.

The government announced 40 days of mourning, while the Royal Court proclaimed three months for mourning, for the King, who has turned Jordan from a tiny undeveloped nation into a modern and stable Kingdom.

"May God have mercy on the father of Islam and the fathers of Arabs," said Jordan Television newsman Adnan Zobi, his voice shaking.

"Our nation witnessed the nobility of scores of Arab and foreign leaders who came to condole Jordanians, thanks to you, Your Majesty."

"You will never die, you will forever remain in our hearts," he said as King Hussein's body, covered in simple white cloth in line with Islamic tradition, was lifted from the casket by his five sons and lowered into the ground.

The sound of a 15-gun salute and suppressed tears broke the deadly silence.

"We belong to God and to God we shall return" said Royal Court Imam Sheikh Ahmad Hleil.

The funeral party then left the burial tent led by King Abdullah, his four brothers, two uncles, HRH Prince Mohammad and HRH Prince Hassan and close cousins, to receive condolences from over 5,000 Western, Arab and Jordanian dignitaries.



People gather around a sign leading to the Royal Palaces to have the last look at their King before he was buried in Amman on Monday (AFP photo)

Parliament speakers, officials send condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — The President of the Senate Zeid Rifai Monday sent a cable to His Majesty King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein pledging the Upper House of Parliament's allegiance to the Throne and commitment to working under his directives.

"The senators voice their loyalty to you and the Hashemite leadership and remain committed to pursue the course set by the late King Hussein — may God bless his soul — to attain further achievements for the Kingdom," said Rifai.

"The Senate takes pride in what Jordan has achieved at the hands of the late King Hussein and

we look forward to pursuing the march for development and prosperity," said the cable.

Rifai sent a cable to HRH Crown Prince Hamzah Ben Al Hussein in his name and on behalf of the Senate members congratulating him on his appointment as Crown Prince.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Hadi Majali Monday sent a cable of condolence to King Abdullah on the passing of the late King Hussein, expressing the deputies' profound grief and praying to God to bestow mercy on his soul.

In the cable, Majali said: "We are all overwhelmed by sadness and grief over

the loss of King Hussein but we will remain faithful to his directives in serving the Kingdom as he has always wanted us to do."

"As members of Parliament, an institution which the late King had founded, we pledge to remain loyal soldiers upholding the Hashemite standards and hacking your blessed leadership," said Majali.

Majali also Monday sent a cable to Crown Prince Hamzah expressing the Lower House's grief over the passing of King Hussein and expressing allegiance to the Hashemite Throne.

The Islamic Chief Justice Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi sent a cable to

King Abdullah, expressing sympathy on the death of King Hussein in his name and on behalf of the Sharia (Islamic) Court judges.

Sheikh Tamimi wished King Abdullah success in carrying out his duties.

Amman Mayor Nidal Al Hadid said in a cable to King Abdullah that the passing of King Hussein was a great loss to Jordan and other Arab countries and a shock to the world community at large.

The President of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) Saif Sharif said in his condolence cable to the King that King Hussein was a man who dedicated his life to serving his nation, adding that he had

set an example of tolerance, justice and wise leadership to other leaders and won the hearts of his people.

Meanwhile, Jordanians from the different governorates converged on Amman since dawn Monday to take part in the funeral of the late King Hussein and express their love to their leader.

Reports from different towns around Jordan said stores and businesses closed, black flags were hoisted on buildings and mosques and churches were filled with worshippers for special prayers for the late King Hussein's soul.

Arab, foreign officials express grief

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Ilab Al Khatib Monday received cables from the foreign ministers of Germany, Chile and Brazil, who offered their heartfelt condolences over the passing of His Majesty King Hussein.

In their cables the ministers lauded King Hussein's efforts to establish peace in the Middle East region and voiced confidence that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah, will continue its efforts to establish peace for all the countries of the region.

Lower House Speaker Abdul Hadi Majali received cables of condolences from his Sudanese and Turkish counterparts, as well as from head of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and from President of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) Ahmad Fathi Sour.

Sour praised King Hussein as an Arab leader who dedicated his life to serve the causes of his people and the Arab Nation and to establish modern democratic institutions in his country.

Sour stressed that the APU is confident that Jordan, under the leadership of King Abdullah, will continue to work for enhancing Arab solidarity and strengthening Jordan's relations with all countries of the world.

Muslim, Christian leaders hail King Hussein's leadership, place hope on successor

By Dima Hamdan

AMMAN — Prominent Muslim and Christian leaders Monday paid tribute to the late King Hussein and hailed his relentless efforts to maintain equality and justice in Jordan by sustaining both religious and political pluralities in the country.

Ziad Abu Ghanimeh, a former member of the Muslim Brotherhood, Jordan's oldest and strongest Islamic movement, applauded King Hussein's exceptional attitude towards the Islamic opposition, established in 1942.

"I feel like any other citizen, grief is the one sentiment that unites all Jordanians, especially because the King — peace be upon his soul — represented a role model among all leaders in the Third World in terms of his stance towards the opposition," he said.

"Jordanians were able to oppose the main policies (they wished), which were introduced by the King, without opposing

the king himself. This is seldom found in other countries where opposition factions would pay for their positions with their own lives."

Abu Ghanimeh, who has been a member of the opposition for over 50 years, also expressed hope that King Abdullah would follow in his father's footsteps in this regard and not strengthen ties with Israel and the United States.

"What we hope from the new and youthful king is to be attentive to the community that was full of love and admiration for King Hussein... The future depends on Jordan's official stance; mainly the immunity from foreign dominance — especially that of the United States — and protecting Jordan from the Zionist threats and the false claims regarding peace," Abu Ghanimeh said.

He also said that the government must continue to recognise the Islamic movement as a key player and defender of the well-

being of Jordan.

"The Islamic movement will always be a major force in the Jordanian political scene, and any attempt to devalue its position would not be in the interest of Jordan," he said. "One must realise that the Islamic Movement places Jordan's security at its heart."

Abu Ghanimeh namely said the democratic movement in Jordan must be revitalised and that the current Elections Law should be reconsidered. He also hoped that the current Press and Publications Law be replaced with a new law that will enable Jordan to "enter the 21st century with confidence."

Meanwhile, Abdul Majeed Thneibat, the overall leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, stressed that his movement is based on reform rather than opposition. He explained that it was King Hussein's understanding of the objectives and principles of the movement that prevented Jordan from falling

into political turbulence similar to what was experienced in neighbouring Arab countries where political plurality does not exist.

"This movement was formed in 1942 and co-existed with the regime ever since then. The King had set the base for dealing with the Muslim Brotherhood as seldom found in neighbouring Arab countries, and this saved Jordan from falling into severe crises and facing underground activities that were exercised in other countries," he said.

As for the future, Thneibat said he was confident that the basis of the relationship between the Monarchy and the Muslim Brotherhood will remain unchanged under the leadership of King Abdullah.

He also asserted that there was no conflict between maintaining this relationship and the government's normalisation of ties with Israel.

"When King Hussein began to negotiate (with

Israel), he understood our position and granted us the freedom to express our opinion. This is logical, we have come a long way in our democratic process and now we are able to absorb and respect the opinions of others," Thneibat said.

Saleem Qaf'iti, the Anglican archbishop, also paid homage to the King and expressed deep regret that his death came at a very critical stage for the region.

"It is unfortunate that we have lost the King at a time when this region is desperately in need of strong men with firm beliefs in the rights of the Arab Nation and especially in the rights of the Palestinian people. The King was a rare leader who earned respect from both his friends and enemies," Qaf'iti said.

"King Hussein was a model of respect, forgiveness, understanding and a fighter for the unity and equality of all monotheistic religions. He created an

atmosphere of equality and justice."

Qaf'iti also expressed hope that King Abdullah will follow in his father's footsteps, especially in seeking independence for the Palestinian people.

"We hope that God will provide King Abdullah with the wisdom that will enable him to carry his father's message and achieve peace on legitimate grounds so as to secure the future for the coming generations," he said.

"We hope that King Hussein's son will carry on his message and achieve the aspirations of the people in this region, especially the hopes of the Palestinians to gain sovereignty and independence with Jerusalem as their capital. We also hope that the King will contribute in reclaiming the rights of the Syrian and Lebanese people over their legitimate soil and to unite the entire Arab Nation."

Antonio Soboh, archbishop of Copt Christians

in Jordan, asserted that because of King Hussein's liberal and respectful approach towards all religions, he had never felt as a minority in Jordan, a predominantly Muslim country.

"The late king was a model of a wise, human and brave leader and he was able to unify Jordan; we never felt like strangers in Jordan; we were able to practise our religion in an atmosphere of freedom and forgiveness that was conceived by the King," he said.

"There is no doubt that the massive international media coverage of this tragedy is the outcome of the King's efforts and qualities... all the prominent political figures came to pay their respects to the king and to his efforts for the sake of peace and stability. He has definitely created a distinguished presence for Jordan in the whole world."

Police arrest three journalists in Zimbabwe

HARARE (AFP) — Three journalists were arrested in Zimbabwe Monday, apparently over a report involving the country's military operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a newspaper executive said.

Trevor Harris, assistant editor of the independent Mirror newspaper, told AFP that police first arrested reporter Grace Kwinjeh at the newspaper offices and took her to Harare Central police station.

In what appears to be a concerted crackdown on independent media, they came back an hour later for Managing Editor Fernando Goncalves, who was taken away in a car which also held his predecessor in the post, Farai Mungazi.

The arrests come just weeks after the detention and alleged torture by the military of two journalists on the Standard newspaper, who wrote a report about an alleged coup plot against President Robert Mugabe.

It also follows a televised address by Mugabe at the weekend in which he

appeared to condone the military's action, and warned erring journalists to "not cry foul" if extraordinary measures were taken against them.

Mirror publisher Ibbo Mandaza said he believed Kwinjeh had been detained for reporting that the family of a Zimbabwean soldier killed in the DRC had been given only his head for burial.

The armed forces, which are extremely sensitive to criticism of their operations in the DRC in support of President Laurent Kabila, denied the report.

Kwinjeh's report appeared in the Mirror at the end of last October, and newspaper sources say the delay before her arrest indicates that a crackdown on the independent media has only just begun.

Several ministers have recently threatened new controls on the press, as Mugabe's government faces mounting opposition from trade unions and human rights groups protesting government corruption and economic hard-

ships.

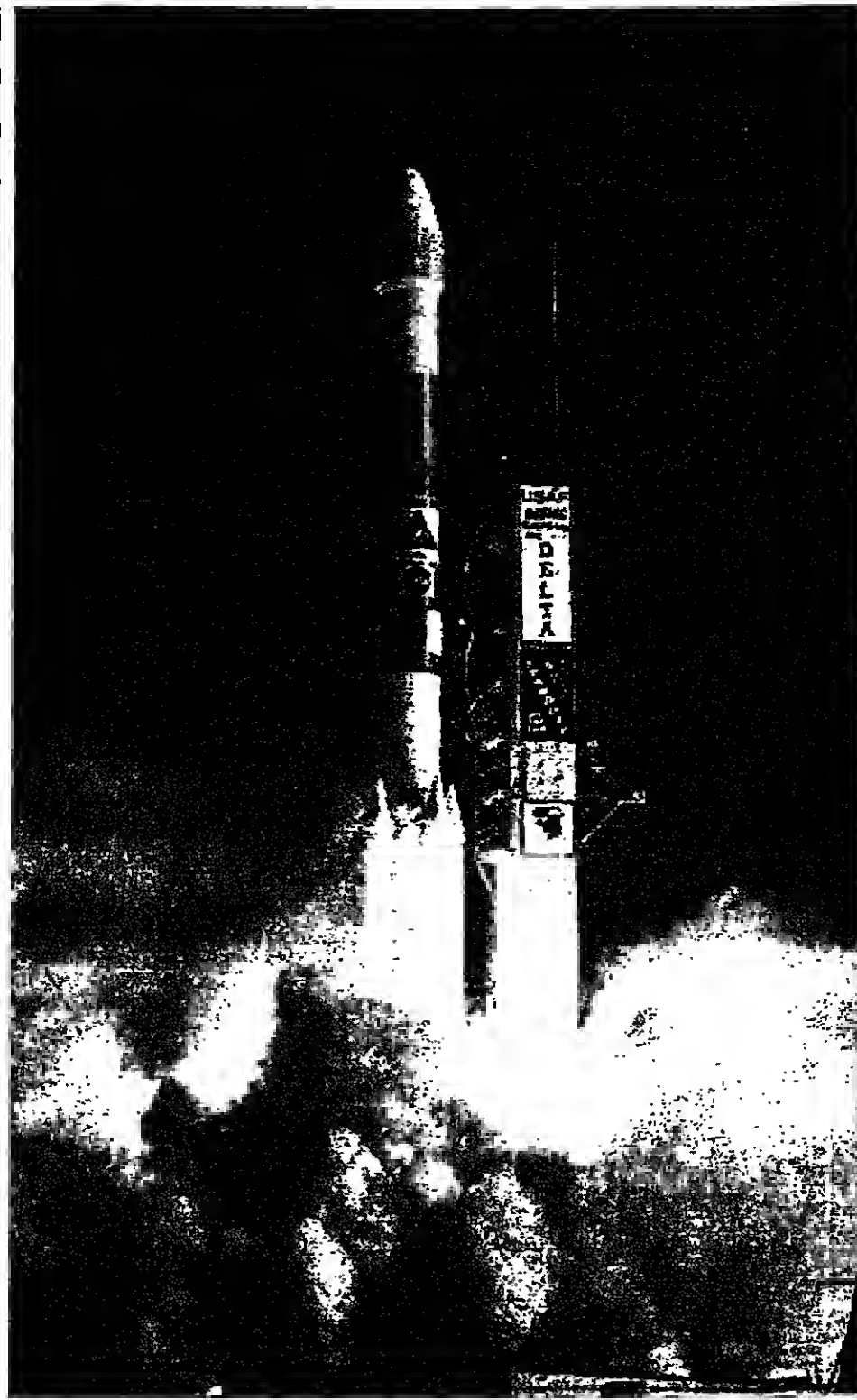
Information Minister Chen Chimutengwende said: "We have allowed the operations of independent media whose agenda is not to run a business but to destroy the country."

Home Affairs Minister Dumiso Dabengwa warned that he would not hesitate to amend the law to protect the military from a bad press.

"I would like to warn the press that granting them freedom of expression does not give them the right to publish lies with the intention of creating public disorder. We won't allow that to happen," Dabengwa said.

Minister of State for National Security, Sydney Sekeramayi, accused some foreign governments, which he did not name, of setting up an informal coalition with the press in a bid to oust Mugabe's government.

He charged that there was a "morbid hatred of the Zimbabwean government by some elements of the foreign press, (and) it is not surprising if such organisations tried to ferment dissidence in Zimbabwe."



A Delta II rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral Air Station carrying the Stardust spacecraft. Stardust plans to collect and return dust particles from a newly discovered comet (Reuters photo)

Angola postpones elections over renewed civil war

LUANDA (R) — Angola's overdue presidential elections have been postponed again because of the flare-up of the country's long-running civil war, a spokesman for the country's ruling party said Monday.

Joao Lourenco, secretary-general of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), told state radio that the vote, delayed since 1995, had been put off indefinitely.

"One of the conditions for elections is peace," Lourenco said, blaming the renewed conflict on Jonas Savimbi, leader of the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

"Savimbi reignited the war so he has put off the

possibility to have either legislative or presidential elections," he said.

Angola's 1994 peace accord collapsed in December after the MPLA government, frustrated with UNITA's lack of compliance with the peace terms, launched an offensive against the rebels' central highland headquarters.

Government troops were quickly rebuffed and since then UNITA has scored some victories over the Luanda government.

Analysts say, however, the two sides will once again fight to a standstill, as they have done repeatedly since independence from Portugal in 1975, and then seek renewed peace talks.

The last election in Angola was in 1992.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos won 49.6 per cent of the vote against 40.7 per cent for Savimbi. The MPLA also won a majority in legislative elections, taking 54 per cent of the vote to UNITA's 34 per cent.

Elections scheduled for 1995 were delayed in July of that year by parliament, citing the need for national reconciliation.

Since then UNITA has rejected the results of the 1992 vote and has refused to recognise the legitimacy of the president or the legislature.

A Western diplomat in Luanda told Reuters that Lourenco's statement was hardly surprising given the climate of war, adding that it would be "almost impossible" to hold a poll in the current conditions.

S. Leone president to let jailed rebel chief speak to his men

FREETOWN (AFP) — President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone has agreed to allow rebel chief Foday Sankoh, who is jailed under a death sentence, to hold talks with members of his movement who are fighting pro-government forces.

In a public radio address late Sunday, Kabbah said he would "allow Foday Sankoh to have a face-to-face meeting" with members of the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF), who first launched a guerrilla war in 1991 and have been fighting successive governments ever since.

Kabbah said the meeting would be held "at a suitable venue to be determined," but gave no other details.

Diplomatic sources described Kabbah's broadcast as a first step towards holding peace talks between his administration and the rebels.

Kabbah himself said he would like to reopen dialogue with the RUF.

"The idea is to give them an opportunity to consult and let us know how they intend to facilitate the peace process," he said.

Sankoh has been detained at an unknown location after being sentenced to death on treason charges in October for his role in collaborating with an ousted junta, which toppled Kabbah in 1997 and was in turn routed from Freetown by the west African intervention force, ECOMOG, in February 1998.

their ex-junta allies invaded Freetown on Jan. 6. The rebels fought for control of the capital for two weeks, before being forced by ECOMOG to retreat to adjacent hills and surrounding suburbs.

Smaller groups of rebels have continued to launch sporadic attacks in the city, however.

A day after the invasion, Kabbah announced that he and Sankoh had agreed to a ceasefire. But RUF field commander Sam Bockarie, rejected the truce. Bockarie instead demanded that he meet Sankoh "face-to-face on neutral ground."

Sunday, Kabbah said the government would urge the RUF to "come up with a clear position," regarding a peace settlement.

The president said the government wanted the Abidjan Peace Accord, a short-lived deal which Kabbah and Sankoh signed in 1996, to be used as "a frame of reference for a peace settlement in which we hope this time the RUF will be sincere."

Under the accord, the RUF would be recognised as a bona fide political movement. Its members would be granted amnesty and reintegrated into society. The measures would follow a disarmament and demobilisation of all combatants.

Kabbah said he had been "holding a series of consultations on the issue" but did not elaborate.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos won 49.6 per cent of the vote against 40.7 per cent for Savimbi. The MPLA also won a majority in legislative elections, taking 54 per cent of the vote to UNITA's 34 per cent.

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et groups to begin consultations immediately to try to build a national consensus on how government should conduct the peace process on the basis of the Abidjan Peace Accord.

"All armed attacks against the people of Sierra Leone must cease and the rebels should present no preconditions for dialogue," he said.

"In light of this consensus and notwithstanding actions by the rebels to derail all my initiatives for achieving peace, I wish to state that my government is prepared to continue its efforts for dialogue," he went on.

Meanwhile, ECOMOG soldiers arrested an undisclosed number of people in Freetown in a crackdown against "suspected collaborators" late last week.

The soldiers also seized a large quantity of weapons in the city in a series of "coordination and search operations," said ECOMOG spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Chris Olukade.

China challenges H. Kong court on immigration

BEIJING (R) — In an unprecedented challenge to Hong Kong's courts, a top Chinese cabinet official Monday hit out at a ruling that opens the way to mass immigration from the mainland.

"The decision of the Hong Kong court was a mistake and against the Basic Law," said Zhao Qizheng, director of the State Council Information Office. He was referring to Hong Kong's post-colonial constitution drafted in Beijing.

"It is a very serious matter," he said. "This decision should be changed."

Zhao's comments set the stage for the first constitutional confrontation between Hong Kong and Beijing since the territory was handed back to China by Britain in 1997.

It was the first official Chinese word on last month's ruling by Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal giving right of abode to illegitimate children of Hong Kong residents and children born before either of their parents became residents.

The ruling opens Hong Kong's doors to tens of thousands of mainland Chinese.

Zhao, speaking privately to reporters during a Lunar New Year reception, did not say what steps, if any,

Beijing would take. Outspoken Hong Kong opposition politician Emily Lau said Zhao's comments were a threat to the territory.

"I think this is the most serious crisis since the change of sovereignty," she said.

"They need to understand the importance of judiciary independence, which is enshrined in the Basic Law. This is a serious blow to the judiciary," Lau said.

Earlier, public criticism of the ruling by four Chinese drafters of the Basic Law Sunday brought howls of protest from Hong Kong legal experts who said it bordered on interference by Beijing.

Hong Kong opposition leader Martin Lee said if Beijing directly expressed such views it could trigger a constitutional crisis.

"When we see strong language used in accusations levelled against the Court of Final Appeal judgment, we become worried," Lee said, referring to Sunday's criticisms.

"We hope the central government will not actually adopt such attitudes," he said.

Beijing promised to keep its hands off Hong Kong's British-style judicial system after 1997.

But Zhao stood behind the

criticism by the four Chinese legal experts and made clear it mirrored Beijing's line.

"There is no contradiction with the government view," he said. "We must support the Basic Law. The Basic Law cannot be changed," Zhao said.

Other cabinet officials at the reception made clear that Beijing's objection to the ruling was not political. Rather, it reflected a desire to protect Hong Kong's crisis-hit economy.

The Hong Kong government has also come out against the ruling, saying a sudden influx from the mainland would add a grave burden to the territory.

Over the past 20 years, many Hong Kong businessmen have acquired a mistress and second family in China, where they have invested. Children of these unions are now growing up, and would compete for jobs if they were allowed entry to Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong, 100 mainland Chinese with two-way visas Monday entered the fourth day of a protest outside government headquarters to demand immediate residency rights.

The government has said the protesters must return home to apply for Hong Kong residence and prove their claims.

Vatican judge closes Swiss Guard murder case

ROME (AFP) — A Vatican City magistrate Monday closed the case against a Swiss Guard accused of killing his commander before committing suicide last year.

According to the official version, Cedric Tornay, 23, killed Alois Estermann and his wife Gladys Meza Romero, a Venezuelan diplomat, in their apartment on May 4, and then killed himself.

The Vatican claims Tornay carried out the act in a fit of madness, embittered by disciplinary action

Esternmann had taken against him. Estermann had just been named commander of the guards.

Vatican magistrate Gianluigi Marrone closed the case saying no new information had come forward to challenge the Vatican's version. Marrone said Tornay was suffering from a brain tumour when he died.

Details of the inquiry, published Monday, said Tornay was subject to psychological problems which could have been linked to the tumour. It said traces of

cannabis had also been found in his body.

The inquiry also found Tornay had spent the day of the killing on hours of guard duty starting at 6:00 a.m., adding to his levels of stress and mental confusion.

Tornay's mother Sunday announced she had proof her son's suicide was in fact murder as part of a plot against all three.

"The official version is full of deceit, contradictions and lies which hide a probably inadmissible truth," she told Il Messaggero newspaper.

NEWS IN BRIEF

French farmers ransack environment minister's office

PARIS (AFP) — French police detained dozens of farmers who ransacked a ministerial office and offices at an elite university in Paris Monday in protest at plans to tax the use of certain pesticides. A round 100 farmers burst into the offices of Environment Minister Dominique Voynet and later stormed the nearby offices of the civil service training school known as ENA, police headquarters said. The protesters issued a statement of clearing: "The minds of senior officials have always been closed to the real problems faced by farmers." Police headquarters described the protesters as "violent" and said they buried "small stones and other missiles" at the police and did "much damage" to the ministry offices before they were arrested. Speaking in the Atlantic coast city of Nantes, Voynet accused protesters of intimidating her staff and described their actions as unacceptable. "Behaviour like this does them no credit," she said. "One might ask who is manipulating them." One of Voynet's senior aides, Vincent Jacques Le Seigneur said that about 200 protesters ransacked her office. "The floor is covered in flour and filling cupboards have been thrown down," Le Seigneur added. There the demonstrators issued a statement saying they wanted "to protest against proposals to tax the use of pesticides." Police said only 100 people were involved in the attack on both buildings. The protests coincided with demonstrations in the provinces, notably in east and France.

Brussels bears with old measures another 10 years

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The use of the old Anglo-Saxon feet and inches and pounds and ounces as measurements for goods sold in the European Union (EU) will be authorised for another decade under European Commission proposals published Monday. Under legislation first agreed in 1979, EU member states are theoretically committed to the exclusive use of the metric system for all measurements, with certain exceptions such as the use of miles for road distances and pints for beer and milk in Britain and Ireland. Additional measurements were first allowed until 1989, then 1999 and, under the latest proposals, will be allowed to continue until 2009. Industry Commissioner Martin Bangemann said the decision to allow labelling in both systems to continue reflected the concern of U.S. manufacturers that they would be obliged to produce different labels for the U.S. and European markets. "We wish to spare industry unnecessary difficulties," he said. The commissioner however urged the United States to join the rest of the industrialised world in switching to the metric system.

Pakistani court bails police officers in Murtaza Bhutto murder case

KARACHI (AFP) — Fourteen Pakistani police officers facing trial over the murder of former Premier Benazir Bhutto's brother Mir Murtaza Bhutto were released on bail Monday, lawyers said. Judge Yasmin Abbasi granted bail to 14 of the 17 jailed officers after there was no substantive progress in the case over the past two years, the judge said. Three officers, including the ex-chief of intelligence bureau Masood Sharif and police officers Wajid Durrani and Rafi Tahir, were denied bail. The reasons for the rejection were not known but lawyers said they could appeal to superior courts. Under Pakistani law, a prisoner facing trial is granted bail if his or her case shows no substantive progress within two years of arrest, lawyers said. In the Murtaza Bhutto murder case, only 12 out of 223 prosecution witnesses have testified since the trial began in early 1997. All the jailed men have spent two years in jail. The key accused, Benazir's husband Asif Ali Zardari, was granted bail on medical grounds recently, but remains in prison facing several other criminal and corruption charges. Former Karachi police chief Shoaib Sadiq was granted bail in the same case in December 1996. Two other police officers and former Sindh chief minister Abdul Wahid Shah are listed as fugitives in the case that rocked the Bhutto government and eventually led to Benazir's dismissal. Murtaza and seven of his political colleagues were killed in a police shootout near his seaside Clifton residence in September 1996, two months before the dismissal of Benazir's government on charges of corruption and misuse. He was a political rival to his sister Benazir.

Christians in Colombo demand end to attacks in India

COLOMBO (AP) — Nearly 2,000 Christians silently marched to the Indian embassy in the Sri Lankan capital Monday, demanding an end to attacks on Christians in neighbouring India. The protesters prayed at a church before marching 300 metres to the embassy, carrying placards reading: "Please Protect Indian Christians." They later dispersed. "We regret the fact that these attacks are orchestrated by groups closely associated with the ruling BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) government. We urge the Indian government to provide protection to all religious minorities," said Harim Peiris, a spokesman for the Christian Consultation of Sri Lanka. Most of the attacks on Christians in recent months have been in the Indian states of Gujarat and Orissa where radical Hindu groups have reportedly targeted Christian missionaries, a charge they deny.

Japanese, British war veterans meet in Myanmar

YANGON (R) — Japanese and British war veterans of World War II held a joint memorial service Monday at a new Japanese war cemetery in a Yangon suburb near areas where they fought fiercely against each other more than 50 years ago. About 350 Japanese war veterans, their families, and members of the Burma Campaign Fellowship Group in Britain, attended the ceremony sponsored by the All-Burma Veterans Association of Japan. Myanmar officials said. British ambassador Robert Gordon and his Japanese counterpart Kazuo Asakai also joined the gathering at the Mayway Japanese War Cemetery about 32-km north of Yangon. Myanmar officials said it was only the second joint ceremony between the two former foes on the site of a battlefield in Myanmar. Their first meeting was in February 1997 at an old Japanese cemetery at Kyandaw in Yangon. Over 190,000 Japanese and 37,000 Allied soldiers, mainly from Britain, Australia, New Zealand and India, died in battles in Myanmar during World War II.

Five drown in car in Ukraine

KIEV (AP) — Five people driving across a frozen river in western Ukraine drowned early Monday after their van fell through the ice, officials said. Five other passengers in the Volkswagen van managed to escape. The van was crossing the Turiya river near the village of Velykomyr in the western Volyn region, an Emergency Situations Ministry spokesman said. Rescue workers lifted the van and one body from the river's bottom by noon Monday, while the other four bodies remained under water, the spokesman said.



Months come to

North... Marine... killed... family friend... Months come to... North... Marine... killed... family friend... Months come to... North... Marine... killed... family friend...

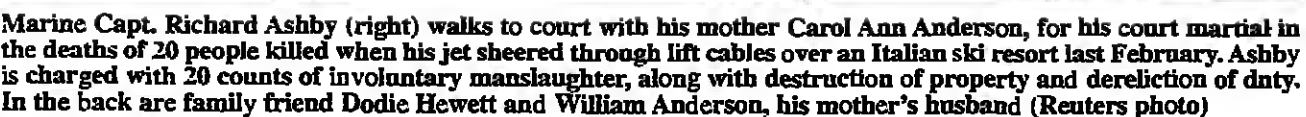
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New evidence Germanic tribes pleasant neighbors

Amsterdam... Germanic tribes... pleasant neighbors... New evidence Germanic tribes pleasant neighbors... Amsterdam... Germanic tribes... pleasant neighbors... New evidence Germanic tribes pleasant neighbors...

New evidence Germanic tribes pleasant neighbors... Amsterdam... Germanic tribes... pleasant neighbors... New evidence Germanic tribes pleasant neighbors... Amsterdam... Germanic tribes... pleasant neighbors...

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Marine Capt. Richard Ashby (right) walks to court with his mother Carol Ann Anderson, for his court martial in the deaths of 20 people killed when his jet sheered through lift cables over an Italian ski resort last February. Ashby is charged with 20 counts of involuntary manslaughter, along with destruction of property and dereliction of duty. In the back are family friend Dodie Hewett and William Anderson, his mother's husband (Reuters photo)

CAMP LEJEUNE. North Carolina (AP) — A Marine present in the courtroom — an experienced pilot whose flying skills were so reckless low and fast in violation of flight rules.

Prowler jet on Feb. 3, 1998, when its wing cut the cable supporting the Mount Carmine gondola. The 20 people aboard were killed.

About a half-dozen relatives of the victims were charged with obstruction of justice involving a missing personal videotape shot during the flight.

Charges against the Prowler's two back seat crewmen were dismissed.

ing its downfall will need to be revised somewhat, at least as far as the south-

and "broken" look of taken with a big grain of salt."

edings in any case that we understand a human being to be but a cloned person

cloning," he said in the documentary.

RAMBOUILLET, France accord is reached, have "The agreement must be into Sunday night and start-
(R) — Yugoslav Serbs and been given a maximum of real. None of us would con- ed work again early

'No breakthrough in Kosovo body impasse'

STIMLJE, Serbia (R) — International ceasefire monitors failed Monday to insist the bodies be handed back together and are refusing to return the Serbs took the bodies together from the Rakac region. It's an incident is that they want the Serb forces to withdraw from the area during the ceremony.

French officials on trial in AIDS blood scandal

PARIS (R) — Three French ex-cabinet officers including former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's son, François, were sentenced to prison and 500,000 francs (\$86,000) in fines if convicted. All three have taken temporary leave from his post as National Assembly speaker to stand

"So I am reticent to ask — because he is such a good man — (that) he would come," she said.

Irish Deputy Prime Minister

BELFAST (R) — Britain's most senior minister in Northern Ireland said Monday Mary Harney said Sunday that Mitchel should help resolve outstanding differences over the peace process. Harney said that if Mitchel could be called in, he added. "The review can be conducted by the British government," he said. Harney said that if Mitchel could be called in, he added. "The review can be conducted by the British government," he said. Harney said that if Mitchel could be called in, he added. "The review can be conducted by the British government," he said.

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Grieving but proud

THE SUPPORT and expressions of solidarity that Jordan has received on both the regional and international fronts yesterday has certainly been reassuring. While Jordanians expressed their grief over the loss of His Majesty King Hussein, they equally rallied to pledge allegiance to his chosen heir, His Majesty King Abdullah.

The Arab World and the international communities wasted no time in demonstrating their support for Jordan in its moment of sadness.

Some would say that the outpouring of support from Jordan's friends indicates that potential problems lie ahead. But if we are to place faith in what Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday while in Amman to attend King Hussein's funeral, perhaps a new era is dawning. Netanyahu told Israel radio from Amman: "The fact that we all came here to signal our commitment to a real peace in the Middle East convinced me I must try to achieve a new beginning to broaden the efforts for peace and make it real."

It can genuinely be said that King Hussein's legacy as the champion of peace humbled even the mighty yesterday as Jordan laid its King to rest.

The work ahead — to achieve peace between Arabs and Israelis, to close Arab ranks, to promote democracy — will depend now on the deeds of most of those leaders who came to bid their neighbour and friend farewell.

HRH Prince Abdullah, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, expressed his country's total commitment to the well-being of Jordan, further consolidating and enhancing a reconciliation process that started in the days of King Hussein. Such expression of fraternity will certainly place Jordan firmly at the heart of its nation as Prince Abdullah said.

The support that Jordan also got from other world leaders especially in the West must also be seen as both solidarity with Jordan but also as an expression of faith in peace in the region which King Hussein spent his lifetime pursuing and advocating.

Yesterday will certainly enter into the contemporary annals of world history as Hussein's day. It brought the world together in the memory of a great man for which we Jordanians take pride.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Faneh quoted His Majesty King Abdullah, before he became either King or heir, as saying to an Arab magazine that Jordan does not need a King nor a Crown Prince. If Jordan has lost His Majesty King Hussein, the country has earned King Abdullah II, he said. God gave us Al Hussein and was generous enough to enable him to lead the Kingdom for 47 years, the longest period for any current leader, Faneh added. However, everything has an end, which came gradually to the King over seven months, during which time Jordanians became aware of and understood the inevitable. But nothing could have prevented the sadness of losing Al Hussein, and, the writer said, people have the right to feel bereaved as if they had lost their father or mother. Although, modern Jordan was created by Al Hussein, the Kingdom was created to last forever under the leadership chosen by him, and determined by the Constitution, said Faneh. Luckily, the King's legitimacy and the loyalty for his leadership can be transferred to his successor, chosen by him, the writer said and added that the young King Abdullah will neither start from zero nor work in a void because he enjoys the loyalty from those who gave their loyalty to his father. Destiny has decided that Jordan is the first among the Arab countries a younger generation will assume leadership, and if Al Hussein is absent in body, his significant achievements, wise policies and courageous stands will remain for ever. The whole world will remember Al Hussein for his achievements as a peacemaker, while Jordanian citizens will recall his achievements in building a modern state.

Al Dustour's Mazen Saket said Arab and international solidarity with Jordan in the past few weeks expresses His Majesty King Hussein's position as an historical leader. It also supports historical facts, that will allow the country to strengthen its relations with the Arab World, cooperation and economic exchange and encourage investment, Saket said. This should encourage the government to exert efforts in order to establish a basis from which to support and develop such relations, the writer said. These efforts should help solve the problems of the Kingdom's debts, Jordanian human resources in the Gulf states, local exports and Arab participation in the local economy. The government has an important chance that needs studied action in order to be successful.

The ongoing legacy of King Hussein

FAITH IN the humanity of mankind, faith in the rising returns of giving, faith in the future of Jordan, faith in the mutual benefits of trade and exchange, and faith that all things work toward a better world are all essential to a successful free market system in Jordan. They are all indispensable for sustaining the spirit of work and enterprise against the setbacks and inevitable frustrations that are met in an increasingly global environment. This is the ongoing legacy of His Majesty King Hussein.

His Majesty was practising altruism before preaching it, inspiring trust in an economy that was yet too small and too young, encouraging the foregoing of vendettas and cherishing the forgiveness of the strong, believing that nations would flourish more when they have benevolent sympathies toward each other, giving up pleasures for the sake of a country whose future was still unknown, building systems and establishments when the air was

still laden with smoke and the fruits of distrust and hate, rewarding when he could have easily confiscated and banished, and smiling in the face of those who pained him only to ensure that the peoples of a country and a region would survive.

In his deeds we learn that to be like him, we must give without the assurance of return; save without the certainty of the future value; work beyond the requirements of the job; and have faith in a higher morality, a higher law beyond our immediate distractions and struggles for existence. Thus, he delivered a larger institution of diligence, integrity, and rationality than all institutions, he taught us, Jordanians, to have faith.

In economics, there is a well-known doctrine called the policy-ineffectiveness-proposition, which basically proclaims policy-makers are ineffective in dealing with a market economy because of the lag or slowness of their reaction to market changes. In His Majesty's

case, the proposition was reversed. His ideals of liberty, equality, peace and comity inspire the world. Yet, he never invited efforts to impose them by means of compulsion or by the agency of undemocratic power. He led the country, formed policy, and was ahead of all of Jordan in terms of his vision: for free men to live in a free society it must also be a just society. Even when he knew fully well that certain actions would bring about adverse results he submitted and walked with his countrymen and bore the hunt, a brave soldier to the core buoyed by faith in the destiny of his people. At other times, he moved faster than we wished him to, only to find out later that he was right. Throughout, we learnt to have faith in his leadership and ourselves. He was always clear when he spoke to us, thus giving us impetus for growth without burdening us with the rules of intellectual eloquence, etiquette or pretence.



Dr. Yusuf Mansur

He taught that quality of thought and spirit overshadow the quantities of labour and capital, that hard work is the root of wealth, that the flesh of human capital can melt fast within the contagion of fears of oppression, and that by reaching to a child you are simultaneously reaching to the future. For twenty years I heard his message while living overseas, and he made me proud as I saw my King in the eyes of the world that so respected him; and when I came back to Jordan my pride was over-

come by the love and reverence that lives in every Jordanian's eyes. That is how we learnt to have faith in the man, the father, the King.

It may be that the passing of man is inevitable, and that there is no way to fathom the full potential of a person who lives forever, but there is a way to keep the legacy. In our times of abundance, or when haunted by the spectres of unforeseeable perils, we should try to hold on to the faith so generously proclaimed by such a great man. We should mirror his faith in Jordan and in us and never, never listen to anything greater than the voices of our hearts because that is how he brought Jordan to the zenith of the civilised nations — with the heart of man. A heart that hosted the world; a heart that was big enough for millions to take refuge and for children to smile and grow; a heart that knew that faith could move mountains. That is the ongoing legacy of His Majesty King Hussein.



U.K. military men fondly recall the young cadet King Hussein

By David Ljunggren
Reuters

HE MIGHT have been a Monarch but to the feared sergeant majors at Britain's elite Sandhurst officer training college, King Hussein of Jordan was just another cheeky cadet to be knocked into shape.

Captain James Russell and other Sandhurst contemporaries of King Hussein, writing in the letters column of the Daily Telegraph newspaper, remember a warm, generous high-spirited man who prompted smiles from the moment he arrived in 1952.

On that first day a sergeant major found His Majesty with two companions and, assuming all were cadets, ordered them to march quickly across the square. The King's companions were in fact the Jordanian prime minister and chief of staff.

Russell recalled one memorable exchange between King Hussein and a particularly intimidating sergeant major named Clutterton.

"Mr. King Hussein, Sir," barked Clutterton.

"Sir," replied the King.

"You're an idle King this morning, Sir. Do you hear me Sir?"

On one occasion Clutterton was heard to bawl: "Mr. King Hussein, Sir, Mr. King Hussein, Sir. Where has that Monarch got to now?"

Another contemporary remembered His Majesty being bawled at by a sergeant major called Victor King: "King Hussein, Sir, there are two kings on parade: you, Sir, and I, Sir, and we both know who's the most important King. Don't we, Sir?"

One of King Hussein's favourite pastimes was driving his sky blue Cadillac

around the grounds at high speed with the staff in hot pursuit. One officer remembered how King Hussein would fill the car with fellow cadets on his twice-weekly trips to London.

Major W.S. Sanders-Crook, who shared a room next to His Majesty, said the primitive hot water supply meant that only one of the two men could shave at the same time.

"I often turned it on deliberately when I heard (King Hussein) getting up, just to hear his explosion of wrath...at other times he would creep out of bed and turn his hot tap on, leaving me to the same fate," he recalled.

"Seconds later, his beaming face would appear round my door. King or not, we all liked him enormously."



The young King Hussein in England (file photo)

Letters of condolence

PLEASE ACCEPT my sincere condolences on the death of your King. He will be remembered by the whole world as a fine statesman, world leader and man of honour. Please extend my sympathies to all your people.

Our prayers are with Queen Noor and the Royal family. May God grant the Kingdom of Jordan peace and prosperity and may your new King have a long and happy reign.

Don Gabbert
San Angelo, Texas
U.S.

WE CRY for your Great King, Man of Peace

Giulio and Amalia Clivio
Italy

AS A LITTLE child studying in Lebanon, I saw and admired King Hussein for his autocratic skills and courage. As a high school student in Lebanon, and after a brief visit to Jerusalem and Jordan, I grew to admire and like King Hussein for his humility and strength. After becoming a naturalised U.S. citizen and graduating from university, I got to admire King Hussein for his humanity, vision, political skills, leadership and absolute devotion to his Jordanian people.

As an executive with a U.S. Corporation, but travelling in various countries of the Middle East, I noticed and appreciated and respected King Hussein's compassion, honesty and forthrightness, specially with his people, attributes that I noticed to be rare among his peers in the Middle East and beyond. Also, my admiration for his humanity and humility deepened further.

As a family man, my admiration and respect for King Hussein continued to grow through the years due to King Hussein's steady course of action that was filled with and guided by the attributes he had amassed in my mind and heart and spirit during my childhood and adulthood.

Finally in 1987, when I wanted to have my children raised and attend grade school in a Middle Eastern country, I did my research and found out, beyond the shadow of doubt, that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, King Hussein's home, is the oasis of peace, security and pluralism in the Middle East. The decision was easy, thanks to God and to King Hussein's dedication to Jordan and to Jordanians. When my wife and I took a trip to Jordan in November 1987 to look Jordan over, I was greatly surprised and pleasantly shocked by the transformation of Jordan into a modern state, with established well-functioning institutions, respectable and reliable infrastructure and high educational standards. We moved to Jordan, and as if to have your cake and eat it too, we witnessed the democratisation of Jordan, a feat envied by many Arabic people, and an evolution I felt every Jordanian cherishes and is proud of.

I cannot help but imagine with great sadness and profound regret, if I, a non-Jordanian, was so devastated by the passing away of His Majesty King Hussein, what the Jordanian family and people must be going through in these trying times. Only our faith in God will help us through this tragedy. I am confident that, like me and to a much greater extent, all Jordanians shall never forget their father, the architect of modern Jordan, the man and statesman the world was mourning yesterday. His legacy and stamp shall be forever with us.

I am thankful and for ever grateful to King Hussein, to his immediate family and to his larger Jordanian family, for the beautiful, peaceful and happy 10 years filled of fond memories they gave me and my family while in their midst.

Today, we bid our farewell to the man who captured our hearts and our imagination and who had such a big and positive impact on us, human beings from all corners of the world.

To Queen Noor, the Hashemite family and to all Jordanians we express our deepest sorrow and heartfelt condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

We pray to the Almighty God to give King Abdullah the wisdom to shoulder his immense new responsibilities, as his father did before him, with humility, humanity, compassion, courage, strength, love for peace and fear of God.

Abdullah Georgi Bseirani & Family
Syracuse, New York and
Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.

Clinton,

By Steve Holland

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton's presence of his country's power, his leadership, his solidarity, his courage, his strength, his humanity, his vision, his political skills, his leadership and absolute devotion to his Jordanian people.

As an executive with a U.S. Corporation, but travelling in various countries of the Middle East, I noticed and appreciated and respected King Hussein's compassion, honesty and forthrightness, specially with his people, attributes that I noticed to be rare among his peers in the Middle East and beyond. Also, my admiration for his humanity and humility deepened further.

As a family man, my admiration and respect for King Hussein continued to grow through the years due to King Hussein's steady course of action that was filled with and guided by the attributes he had amassed in my mind and heart and spirit during my childhood and adulthood.

Finally in 1987, when I wanted to have my children raised and attend grade school in a Middle Eastern country, I did my research and found out, beyond the shadow of doubt, that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, King Hussein's home, is the oasis of peace, security and pluralism in the Middle East. The decision was easy, thanks to God and to King Hussein's dedication to Jordan and to Jordanians. When my wife and I took a trip to Jordan in November 1987 to look Jordan over, I was greatly surprised and pleasantly shocked by the transformation of Jordan into a modern state, with established well-functioning institutions, respectable and reliable infrastructure and high educational standards. We moved to Jordan, and as if to have your cake and eat it too, we witnessed the democratisation of Jordan, a feat envied by many Arabic people, and an evolution I felt every Jordanian cherishes and is proud of.

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Friends and foes join together in grief

Agence France Presse

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein, as befitting a lifetime devoted to peace, brought together in his death sworn foes such as U.S. and Iraqi leaders as well as enemies Israel and Syria to unite in mourning Monday.

Syrian President Hafez Assad made a rare foray abroad for the King's state funeral in Amman, although relations between his country and Jordan itself have been strained.

Without previous notice, he was among the last to fly in, after the funeral procession started.

The funeral was the first time that Assad was to appear in public with leaders of Israel, whose peace negotiations with Syria have been frozen since early 1996.

A large Israeli delegation was in Amman for the funeral, headed by President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Apart from the security worries, the occasion also posed a headache for Jordan's protocol officials having to make arrangements to keep apart Israeli and Arab leaders whose states have no ties.

But despite his opposition to the peace process, radical Palestinian leader

Nayef Hawatmeh broke a taboo and shook hands with Weizman, an aide to the Israeli president said.

Unlike the 1995 state funeral of slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin when only a handful of Arab leaders took part, notably King Hussein, the Arab World was strongly represented in Amman.

Iraq, whose President Saddam Hussein has not travelled abroad since the 1991 Gulf War over Kuwait, was represented by Vice President Taha Moheiddin Ma'ruf.

Less than two months after the Desert Fox air war waged on Iraq by the United States and Britain, the funeral was bringing together Ma'ruf with both U.S. President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Former U.S. President George Bush, who led a multinational coalition in evicting Iraq from Kuwait in the Gulf conflict, was also set to provide chilly company for Ma'ruf.

And Sudan, which is under U.S. sanctions for its alleged links to terrorism, sent its President Omar Al Bashir.

Amid the crisis in the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process, of which King Hussein was a devoted advocate, several Arab leaders who have no links to Israel were also in



attendance, notably from the Gulf.

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, representing the ailing King Fahd, Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa and UAE leaders all decided to

attend the state funeral.

For Jordan itself, the funeral was also set to seal a reconciliation with Kuwait, which sent its Crown Prince and Prime Minister Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah. Jordan's embassy in Kuwait is due

to reopen in a few days.

Also taking part in the funeral along with an Israeli delegation from across the Jewish state's political spectrum were officials from Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement.

From another potential conflict zone, Turkey's President Suleiman Demirel was in Amman along with his Cypriot counterpart Glafcos Clerides. 30 per cent of whose country is occupied by Turkish troops.

DFLP leader salutes Weizman at King's funeral

Agence France Presse

KING HUSSEIN contributed to Middle East peace even in death Monday as a key Palestinian foe of peace accords with Israel, Nayef Hawatmeh, warmly greeted Israeli President Ezer Weizman during the monarch's funeral in Amman, witnesses told Israeli radio.

Hawatmeh, leader of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), offered his hand to seeing Weizman and said: "You are a man of peace, who is working for peace in the Middle East." Weizman aide Arieh Shummer told the radio from Amman.

"President Weizman shook his hand and expressed his hope that Syria and Lebanon would also join the path of peace with Israel," Shummer said.

The DFLP is a breakaway from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the two main factions of the PLO opposed to the Oslo autonomy agreements signed by Yasser Arafat with Israel.

In 1974, long before the start of the peace process, DFLP guerrillas seized a school in the northern Israeli village of Maalot and killed 21 children and four adults in one of the bloodiest acts of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Israel radio quoted Israeli officials in Amman as saying Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon was outraged that Weizman shook Hawatmeh's hand, calling the Palestinian "the chief of a terrorist organisation whose members are covered in blood."

Sharon, the Israeli government's toughest hawk, was also in Amman in a large delegation that included Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. But Hawatmeh has in

recent years become more moderate, notably compared to hardline PFLP leader George Habash, and has been seeking Israeli permission to return to the Palestinian territories — so far to no avail, DFLP officials said.

Daoud Tilhami, a West Bank resident and senior member of the DFLP's political bureau, said Hawatmeh's gesture towards Weizman came as no surprise since the movement today has no problem in recognising Israel, the issue is how.

"Our position is clear and has remained the same for the last 25 years. We want an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on the basis of mutual recognition and in accordance with U.N. resolutions," Tilhami said from his home in Ramallah.

"We have serious criticisms of the Oslo agreements because they are not balanced," Tilhami said.

Unlike the PFLP, whose militants continue to carry out attacks on Israeli interests in the Palestinian territories, the DFLP has refrained from such violence, without formally renouncing it.

At a DFLP congress in May last year, the movement said it was ready to join Arafat's Palestinian Authority in negotiations with Israel on a final status for the Palestinian territories.

Tilhami said that 60 per cent of the DFLP's leadership is now based in the West Bank or Gaza Strip and that Hawatmeh had tried to return to the Palestinian territories but had been refused permission by the Israeli authorities.

Weizman has often criticised Netanyahu's right-wing government for its hardline stance in peace negotiations with Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

Clinton, 3 U.S. ex-presidents attend funeral

By Steve Holland
Reuters

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton and three of his predecessors sent a powerful message of solidarity with Jordan on Monday by attending en masse the funeral of His Majesty King Hussein.

Clinton, together with former presidents George Bush, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, attended the solemn ceremonies on the grounds at Raghadan Palace, joining dozens of other world leaders.

As they stood before the casket carrying the late King, who died on Sunday of cancer at age 63, Clinton, Bush, Carter and Ford bowed their heads and paused for a moment.

While other leaders viewed the flag-draped casket inside the palace's Throne Room, Clinton had brief conversations with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and the leaders of Oman, Bahrain and Yemen.

During an earlier reception at the Nadwa Palace inside the Royal complex, Clinton engaged in more international networking. He spoke briefly with a string of foreign leaders, including the obviously ailing Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who stood up and gave Clinton a hug.

Clinton talked to French President Jacques Chirac, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He also spoke with the prime ministers of Britain, Pakistan and Japan.

"Mostly they've been reflecting on King Hussein and what it means to be here," said White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said.

In the courtyard near the mausoleum just before the King was buried, Clinton met briefly with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

After the funeral, Clinton was to meet the King's eldest son and successor, 37-year-old King Abdullah, before returning to Washington.

U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton paid a condolence call on King Hussein's widow, Queen Noor.

It is not often that an event brings together the American president and all but one of his living predecessors, but honouring the memory of King Hussein, who was so vital

in the Middle East peace process and ruled for 47 years, proved irresistible.

"For President Clinton, it has been a great opportunity to draw upon the vast experience and knowledge that this group has," said Lockhart. "They literally spent the whole day together."

White House National Security Adviser Sandy Berger said the presence of Clinton and the ex-presidents was "an extremely strong statement to the people of Jordan that America stands with them during this difficult time."

Only Ronald Reagan was not among the elite group. Reagan, having turned 88 last week, is deep in the throes of Alzheimer's disease.

The last time the group was together was in November 1997 at the opening of the Bush presidential library in Texas. Nancy Reagan stood in for her husband there.

Shortly after takeoff from Washington on Sunday, Clinton gathered the former presidents into the senior staff cabin on Air Force One and they discussed the Middle East, Kosovo, Russia, North Korea and other issues.

Air Force One had to circle the Amman area for 45 minutes because of the logjam of other planes carrying foreign delegations to the funeral.

Senior U.S. officials surveying the Middle Eastern political landscape after the death of King Hussein were optimistic that the peace process would continue.

Berger called the King a "transcendent voice" for peace over the last several years and said "obviously we will miss that presence and that voice."

"We have lost other towering figures in the peace process — (Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat, (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin — but the process has gone forward. There have been obviously setbacks, but this is a region that can ultimately make progress only if there is peace."

Of King Abdullah's accession, Berger said: "In many ways this is the front edge of a new generation of leadership in the Middle East that we are going to see over the next decade. I think King Abdullah is well-suited to lead his country."



Jordan-Israel ties to continue under King Abdullah

By Daniel Sternoff
Reuters

ISRAELI LOST its warmest Arab friend and an irreplaceable ally in the quest for Middle East peace with the death of His Majesty King Hussein, Sunday.

But Israeli officials and analysts foresee a smooth transition of power in Amman and say relations with Jordan will remain stable under its untested successor, His Majesty King Abdullah.

"Nobody in Jordan will yield the same level of prestige, political experience and influence after the King had," said Shimon Shamir, Israel's former ambassador to Jordan.

"But peaceful relations have been formalised, and at least in the short-run I do not see problems which could endanger the regime," Shamir told Reuters.

Israel and Jordan officially ended nearly 50 years of hostility with a peace treaty signed on Oct. 26, 1994.

That treaty has been reinforced by some 15 bilateral agreements on issues ranging from trade, tourism, communications and water sharing.

Israel's ties with Egypt, the first Arab country to make peace with the Jewish state, have remained cold and moves towards reconciliation with the Palestinians are in crisis.

But King Hussein warmed Israeli hearts with his personal dedication to ending an era of enmity

even as crises in peace-making deepened domestic opposition to his pursuit of closer ties with Israel.

"He was not only the father of Jordan. In many ways he was a fatherly figure for all of us," said Nobel peace laureate Shimon Peres, who signed the 1994 accord as Israel's foreign minister in the former government of slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Israelis remember King Hussein dropping to his knees in a working-class Israeli town to pay condolences to the grief-stricken families of seven Israeli schoolgirls shot dead by a Jordanian soldier in 1997.

That remarkable display of compassion came at a time of soaring tensions between Israel and Jordan over plans by Israel's right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to build a Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem.

Such gestures brought King Hussein a store of goodwill which equipped him with a unique capability to cajole Israel and the Palestinians to keep their peace efforts on track.

His intervention helped secure a 1997 agreement on a pullback of Israeli forces in the West Bank town of Hebron, and he rose from cancer treatment in a U.S. clinic to help forge last October's Wye River land-for-security interim accord.

The fact that at Wye he came as a terminally sick man and made the effort, had a weight of its own in

persuading the sides to overcome difficulties," said Netanyahu's aide David Bar-Illan.

But while King Hussein's personal contributions may be unmatched, analysts say the cold logic of national interest will keep his policies on track.

Israel's longest land border is with Jordan and the Kingdom provides a buffer between the Jewish

state and one of its most implacable Arab foes, Iraq.

"There are important geopolitical considerations which will guarantee continuity," said Barry Rubin, an analyst at Israel's Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies.

"There are also parallel interests regarding the Palestinians," Rubin said. Any lack of stability in the Israeli-occupied West

Bank could spill over into Jordan, a majority of whose subjects are of Palestinian origin.

Israeli analysts see King Abdullah's background as commander of Jordan's Special Forces as a sign he will win support among the army, the country's traditional bedrock of support.

Rubin said that King Abdullah, 37, while largely an unknown quantity,

has more experience than his father King Hussein had when he was proclaimed king at the age of 17 in 1952.

"The most difficult decisions were already made and completed during King Hussein's lifetime," Rubin said.

"The departure of a key leader is less important when the main changes have already been made," he said.



Netanyahu paying his respects to His Majesty King Abdullah at yesterday's funeral (AFP photo)

Kingdom's allies rally round with economic aid

LONDON (R) — Jordan's friends lined up Monday to offer economic aid to help ensure a smooth transition in the Kingdom following the death of King Hussein.

Anxious to show support, the United States, Britain and Japan all pledged help for Jordan, which is labouring under a heavy debt burden, a big budget deficit and slow growth.

"We will be looking at what we can do in terms of economic help and the very strong defence relationship that there is between Britain and Jordan," British Prime Minister Tony Blair told Reuters in Amman hours before King Hussein, the Middle East's longest-serving ruler, was buried.

Blair said Britain wanted to take its cue from the United States, which pledged \$300 million in extra military and economic aid to Jordan as it goes through a difficult transition under His Majesty King Abdullah, King Hussein's eldest son.

President Bill Clinton said Washington would support a substantial rescheduling of Jordan's government-to-government debts through the Paris Club of creditor nations on the basis of a new International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

The IMF's current \$331 million loan programme with Amman expresses this

month, and the fund's managing director, Michel Camdessus, promised at the weekend to speed the pace of negotiations on a new package to boost the struggling economy.

"Over many years, the Kingdom of Jordan and the IMF have developed a very close and productive relationship. We will take every possible step to maintain and strengthen it," he said.

Economists said a new three-year IMF extended fund facility would provide Jordan more than \$150 million a year and pave the way for Paris Club governments to reschedule their debts.

Jordan grew briskly from 1992 to 1994 as an estimated 300,000 workers returned from the Gulf and ploughed their savings into the economy. The return followed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the 1990-91 Gulf War.

But the boom petered out and output actually shrank last year, the worst performance since 1989, according to independent economists. The budget deficit grew to 10 per cent and foreign debt rose to \$6.88 billion by the end of October from \$6.53 billion at the end of 1997.

Clinton, who said Washington was working with key allies to mobilise extra resources, added that Jordan could also expect addi-

tional help from the World Bank.

Japan, although mired in its deepest recession in half a century, pledged to continue its economic support.

"As Japan is the largest donor to Jordan and the stability of Jordan itself will lead to peace in the Middle East, I think it is important for Japan to play a major role," Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi told reporters before heading for Amman.

Saudi Arabia also said it was considering extra aid. "We are discussing with Jordanian officials the best way to support the Jordanian economy in a continuation of what the Kingdom had given to Jordan," Finance Minister Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Al Assaf was quoted by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) as saying.

An IMF agreement, which would condition aid on economic reforms and set out new fiscal and monetary targets, could free up hundreds of millions of dollars in the coming months to bolster Jordan's foreign exchange reserves.

The loan programme might also clear the way for additional assistance from other donors and for debt rescheduling with major creditors.

World Bank President James Wolfensohn issued a similar tribute. "He was deeply concerned with poverty and with justice for his citizens and he was the major factor of peace in the region," Wolfensohn said.

"We will continue to give full support to King Abdullah and to the people of Jordan," he stressed.

President Bill Clinton has already pledged \$300 million in U.S. aid to help keep Jordan stable during its leadership transition. He said the United States was also working with key allies and Group of Seven nations to mobilise additional resources.

Jordan is also burdened by heavy debt. In the next few years, Amman has obligations to creditors totalling several hundred million dollars. The country still owes the United States \$300 million to \$400 million.

Clinton said the United States would support a substantial rescheduling of Jordan's debts to bilateral creditors through the Paris Club of creditor nations on the basis of an IMF programme. "The World Bank was also preparing to provide additional support, Clinton said.

The World Bank declined to comment on its lending plans for Jordan. But a new IMF accord could open the door for more World Bank lending.

IMF, World Bank offer help to Jordan

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reached out to griet-stricken Jordan on Sunday after the death of King Hussein, promising to speed the pace of loan negotiations to boost the struggling economy.

In a statement offering condolences to King Hussein's family and the people of Jordan, Managing Director Michel Camdessus said IMF experts already in Amman were "at the disposal of the government" to complete negotiations on a three-year loan programme.

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Economists expect Arab Gulf states to aid Jordan's economy

DUBAI (AFP) — The Gulf states are likely to support Jordan's economy, the most pressing task for King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, economists in the region say.

"Even though they face grave economic prospects because of the continued drop in crude oil prices, I'm convinced that the Arab Gulf states will not hesitate to help the Jordanian economy," said Ihsan Abu Haliqa, an economist and member of Saudi Arabia's Consultative Council.

Help has already come from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which on Friday said it would deposit unspecified funds with Jordan's Central Bank to help fend off speculation on the dinar.

"Jordan's main challenge is economic. The Arab Gulf states, which provide more than 95 per cent of aid to Arab states,

will not let Jordan fight alone against its problems," Haliqa said.

"Jordan's gross domestic product (GDP) is about \$7.5 billion, some 20 times smaller than Saudi Arabia. Financial aid to Jordan will therefore not be greatly felt by the Gulf states," Haliqa said.

"I think the other Gulf states will follow the UAE's steps, given the exceptional circumstances in Jordan and its strategic importance," said Jamal Al Suedi, president of the Emirates Centre for Strategic Research and Studies.

"The Gulf states must support Jordan economically and politically, given its role in the Middle East peace process," he added.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait plan to provide cut-price oil to Jordan, an Amman-based official

said.

Saudi Arabia stopped its oil supplies to Jordan in September 1990 following a deterioration in ties between the two countries, due to Amman's perceived support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

Since then, Jordan has relied entirely on Iraqi oil imports of some 90,000 barrels per day under a United Nations agreement.

The Gulf petro-states also cut off their financial aid to Jordan at the time, in the case of Saudi Arabia about \$200 million a year.

But ties between Amman, Riyadh and Kuwait have thawed over the last two years. The other Gulf states of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the UAE have always maintained a good relationship with Amman.

One fifth of Jordan's

active population is unemployed, and Jordan has a foreign debt of \$6.8 billion. One Jordanian in five lives under the poverty threshold.

Jordan, a country with no natural resources, found its economy badly affected by the fallout from the U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

A large proportion of Iraqi trade used to transit via Jordan, and Iraq was one of Jordan's main trading partners. Israel, with whom Jordan signed a peace agreement in 1994 has not provided an alternative outlet.

After Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait the precipitous return to Jordan of some 300,000 Palestinians who had been working in the Gulf states, and the closure of Gulf markets to Jordanian products added to the country's economic difficulties.

Netanyahu instructs his ministries to facilitate commerce with Jordan

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered taxes slashed on Jordanian imports and instructed his ministers to implement other steps to boost economic ties with Jordan in the wake of King Hussein's death on Sunday, officials said.

"The prime minister has instructed government ministries to facilitate commerce with Jordan, as well as to develop the full array of economic relations between

Israel and Jordan," said a statement issued after the weekly cabinet meeting.

The statement provided no details but a senior official said Netanyahu had ordered the trade ministry to "lower all import taxes on goods shipped from Jordan to the Palestinian areas and Israel."

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Netanyahu ordered the moves to help bolster Jordan's struggling

economy and help maintain stability during the transition of power from King Hussein to his eldest son and successor King Abdullah.

"This is a gesture by the prime minister towards the Jordanians and Palestinians with the intention of improving economic ties in the region at this difficult time," he said.

Officials in the ministry of industry and trade were not immediately available for comment.

Jordanians have frequently complained about the lack of economic dividends from their 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Israel has blamed security and technical problems for the slow growth in trade with Jordan.

But critics accuse the government of purposefully keeping trade barriers in place to prevent cheaper Jordanian goods from entering the country via the Palestinian territories.

Iran struggling to boost non-oil exports

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran, the second largest oil producer in the Middle East, is taking steps to boost non-oil exports to make up for falling revenues from crude sales, an export official has said.

Mojtaba Khosrotaj, the director of Iran's exports promotion center, told a press conference that his country would stage a major exhibition of exportable products in February to attract foreign consumers and ease

its near total dependence on oil sales.

The products range from detergents and household durables to leather and cosmetics, he said, adding that the centre was mainly targeting such economic partners as Italy, Japan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Iran, which relies on crude exports for over 80 per cent of its hard currency income, has seen a sharp drop in such revenues in the past year

because of plummeting oil prices.

Khosrotaj said Iran's non-oil exports had declined in value by 11 per cent in the past year, although their volume had increased by 40 per cent.

He blamed the inferior quality of Iranian goods for their failure to compete on international markets. "Iranian goods are not produced for foreign markets," he lamented.

He said that a "past

policy of seeking economic self-sufficiency rather than one to promote exports has meant producers are often ignorant of export and trade mechanisms."

"Producers are further hindered by excessive regulations and varying exchange rates," he said.

Iran tightly regulates trade, imports in particular, in an effort to prevent precious foreign currency from leaving the country.

Japan pledges aid to Jordan

AMMAN (AP) — As King Hussein was laid to rest on Monday, Japan pledged an unspecified financial assistance to maintain stability in the Kingdom.

Sadaaki Numata, a spokesman for Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, said the emergency assistance aims to highlight the importance that Japan attaches to "Jordan's role as a peacemaker in the Middle East."

He declined to divulge the amount of the aid, but

stressed that it might be similar to contributions made in 1995 and 1996 which amounted to \$400 million in both years.

He told the Associated Press that the figure "will be announced in Tokyo once the state mourning ends in Jordan."

Japan is Jordan's financial bankroller. It spent around \$1 billion since 1990 on development projects in a country which lacks natural resources and saddled by high debt.

Algerian bourse opens Monday

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's long-delayed stock exchange will open on Feb. 15 to coincide with the partial flotation of the biggest domestic pharmaceutical firm, Saidal, the chairman of the market watchdog has said.

"The launch of the bourse is now set on Feb. 15. It will be a strong start," Ali Boukrami, chairman of Algerian Securities Commission (COSOB), told Reuters in an interview.

He said the timing would coincide with the flotation of 20 per cent of the capital of Saidal, which plans to offer two million shares at a price of 800 Algerian dinars (\$13.5) per share.

Furnished Apartment for Rent: International Female Students and Alien Residents Preferred.

A four-bedroom apartment with telephone, in a quiet area in Um-Nowara (Eastern Amman), within walking distance from a main route of public transportation. Leasing terms are negotiable. For more information call Dr. Juma, preferably in the evenings, at 4617860 - extension 4484.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Struggle for breath
- Part of South Africa
- Went fast
- African plant
- Isolated
- Mexican menu item
- Departed
- Painted pony
- Woody's son
- False hint
- Improvise
- Ends of the Earth?
- Warne
- Office pool members
- Got along
- Military trainee
- Brainmaster
- Tent stake
- For pity's sake!
- Screen personas
- "Zaplat"
- Passe
- Repair a hem
- Mature
- Secret
- Messages
- Preparing to drive?
- Tally of possessions
- Choreographer
- Ted
- Bear the consequences
- Sports area, for short
- Actress
- Sommer
- Landed estate
- Satellite of Saturn
- Continuously
- Wear away
- Plg's sire
- Meeting: abbr.
- Polonius
- Leartes, et al.
- Tenney

DOWN

- Festive affair
- Actor Guinness
- Downplay
- Family dog
- Florida city
- False name
- Theatrical award
- Opposed to: pref.
- Dancer's outfit
- Remained
- Kitchen knife
- Success in spades
- Cabinet feature
- Cabal
- Gordon
- Individuals
- Indication of healing
- Saga
- Archives
- Another time
- Watering tool
- Fresh from the oven
- Level
- Band of hoods
- Recovered ownership
- Opinion
- Kind of IRA
- Back end
- Supplies food
- Girl in my
- Sup
- Some rapists
- Medicinal ointment
- Youngsters
- Wedgwood's porcelain
- Amazon
- Estuary
- Priority to
- Voices for
- Writer
- Shelley
- Baseball stat

Peanuts

BEFORE WE GO BACK DOWN THE HILL, LET'S SIT HERE FOR A WHILE.

ACTUALLY THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO EAT LUNCH, UNLESS...

IT'S TOO WINDY.

Andy Capp

I GOT OFF WORK EARLY, PET! IT'LL GIVE ME MORE TIME TO GET READY!

WHAT FOR? WE'RE GOING OUT—YOU PROMISED!

OH, THAT. SORRY, I FORGOT TO MENTION THIS MORNING—I'M IN THE DARTS TEAM, PET!

ONE OF THE LADS HAS GOT THE FLU.

YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE LETTING PEOPLE DOWN!

HE COULDN'T POOLED ME!

Mutt 'n' Jeff

I ONLY HAD A COUPLE OF SHIRTS IN THE LAUNDRY, BUT YOU SAVED THEM FOR ME!

WELL, WHY DID YOU TAKE THE FIFTY CENTS?

FOR POSTAGE, CHECKS, STATIONERY! I'M PAIDING OUT \$1.50 IN ALL! I ONLY CHARGED YOU THE CEILING PRICE!

I DON'T LIKE YOU ANYMORE, SKULLOCK!

MUTT, YOU OWE ME TWO BITS FOR THAT!

TWO BITS?

YES—SEALING PRICE!

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

"I won Most Valuable Employee! It goes to the worker who can drink the most coffee without hallucinating."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VIRTE

AGGYB

DREHWS

SNIDUM

Ans: _____ TO _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: EIGHT CRAFT HELIUM AWEIGH Answer: Excess calories can lum into this—A WEIGHT LIFTER

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Muasher sees banking market in difficult situation if not developed

"IF THE banking market is not rapidly developed, we will find ourselves in a difficult situation at a time of global openness and as we near joining the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the partnership accord with Europe as well as other new mechanisms," said Rajai Muasher, the board chairman of the Jordan National Bank.

Muasher, a former minister of industry and trade, indicated that most Arab and Jordanian banks are of local nature and have limited capability to operate in outside markets with which dealings are conducted through corresponding banks. As such, he said, the (Arab and Jordanian) banks do not develop themselves in the right way and "no Jordanian bank should be exempted from the responsibility of this unacceptable situation in the Jordanian banking sector."

The chairman referred to the requirement of raising the capital to a minimum of JD20 million saying that some banks consider this to be a fulfillment of the Central Bank demand and see no need for the additional step of raising the capital further. "This is wrong as it would result in the inability of banks to provide sufficient financing to big or medium-size projects."

Muasher saw a very wide possibility of licensing foreign banks or opening new branches for them in the country. "As they enjoy expertise and capabilities, the (foreign banks) will compete with the Jordanian and Arab banks in their home territories," he

said adding that the foreign banks will offer new tools and products in the local market.

"Furthermore, they will have an effective role in developing the Jordanian and Arab banking market," Muasher added stressing that, as such, it is imperative to seek and search for technical and banking Jordanian expertise from the local market and from abroad in order to get the necessary results.

Asked about the necessary expertise to support the banking system, the board chairman of the Jordan National Bank mentioned those related to financing tools in the financial market. He specified the bonds market which has noticeably developed in the world. "But in Jordan it is still weak and limited without trading except when banks buy bonds and keep them until the maturity date," said Muasher.

He added: "If no mechanism and return on these bonds at varied rates is formulated to be in harmony and close to banking interest rates and to the expectations of investors who hold these bonds, they will remain owned by the banks and that is not a productive process." As such, Muasher concluded, in order to activate the bonds market, there is a need to expertise and qualified personnel besides legislations to regulate such activities similar to other financial centres in the world (Al Arab Al Yawm).

Jordan leads the region in competitiveness

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's efforts to open its economy through trade liberalisation and modernisation of the regulatory environment are beginning to be recognised abroad.

The latest issue of "The Global Competitiveness Report 1998" (GCR), which rates countries on factors such as openness, government intervention, finance, infrastructure, technology, management, labour and institutions, has given Jordan a ranking of 34, a score which places Jordan in the lead in the region,

ahead of Egypt and Turkey.

The GCR rankings put Singapore at the top in overall competitiveness, followed by Hong Kong and the USA as second and third respectively.

1998 witnessed JD480 million in new and expanded investments, a record year for projects taking advantage of exemptions under the Investment Promotion Law. This represented a 17.4 per cent increase over 1997, of which 33% (JD158 million) was of foreign origin.

Japan rejects U.S.-style labour market

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's government on Monday rejected U.S.-style liberalisation of the labour market as it battles to cut record jobless queues while restoring economic growth.

Labour Minister Akira Amari said U.S. corporate chiefs had approached him begging for deregulation and liberalisation of the market which meant in other words "make it easier to lay people off."

"As far as I am concerned, I have a pretty negative attitude towards this policy," he told a Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan luncheon, warning more sackings would hurt consumer confidence.

Stable employment was critical to Japanese confidence, Amari said.

With the jobless rate at a record high 4.4 per cent, incomes were dropping but people were maintaining the same level of savings, he said, demonstrating their unwillingness to spend in times of uncertainty.

On the other hand, sticking to a cradle-to-grave employment system threatened the competitiveness of Japanese firms overseas and their very survival, along with the jobs they provided.

The challenge was to reconcile the two arguments, which Amari described as a "Catch 22."

His conclusion: "The traditionally Japanese style long-term employment structure should continue remaining and surviving as the core of the Japanese employment policy."

"But at the same time we have to build a number of channels through which workers can (start) new ventures and new works."

In place of radical reform, Amari listed measures which tinkered at the edges of Japan's employment system or performed selective surgery on the sickest organs.

The widespread seniority system, for example, under which salary increases with time served in a company regardless of ability "will have to undergo rather drastic surgery," said the minister.

But even this practice, he conceded, would "die hard."

In place of drastic reform, Amari forecast compromise. "What I am proposing here is a new employment system that can be defined as being placed in the midway of the traditional employment system and so-called American-style of system."

The government planned under its latest stimulus package to provide one trillion yen (\$8.9 billion) to help subsidise wages at new small companies including those started by jobless people.

It would also ease legislation on hiring temporary workers and concentrate help on white-collar workers, including training and education programmes which tap the private sector.

Tokyo would free up the job-finding market to allow greater private sector participation in helping match skills and jobs, the minister said, rejecting arguments there were no jobs.

The latest figures for November showed there were only 47 job offers for every 100 job seekers.

Large companies would be encouraged to supplement their traditional en masse hiring of college graduates and the government would make it easier for women to return to work after having babies or raising families, the minister said.

"Also we are thinking of subsidising child-care assistance within private corporations," he said.

Japan's jobless rate of 4.4 per cent nearly matched the 4.3 per cent record low in the United States, Amari said, but added there were two key differences.

One was that Japan's corporations resorted to sacking only as a last resort. The other was that "Japanese people are not familiar with being fired," meaning concern over security soared even at relatively low levels of joblessness.

Israelis see economic ties with Jordan unaffected

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israelis are likely to hold back on further investment in Jordan until the Kingdom's domestic political situation is clarified, Israeli business executives and trade officials said on Monday.

But they said the logic of investing and trading with Jordan was too strong for Israeli companies to stay away for long.

"I think they will hesitate, but I recommend they don't. Now is the right time because prices are good and land is cheap," said Gil Feiler, whose Info-Prod Research Ltd advises Israeli companies doing business in the Middle East.

By global standards bilateral ties between the two neighbouring countries are small, but both governments ascribe a great deal of importance to it.

"This is an effective and practical way to privatise the peace...It's important to have relations on a business level," said Gad Ben-Ari, director of Middle East operations at Koor Industries.

On Sunday, in a gesture aimed at supporting Jordan's new King Abdullah, the Israeli cabinet said it would take unspecified measures to ease bilateral trade.

Israelis are more enthusiastic about the potential for joint venture investment than trade.

"Here economics really talks," Feiler said. "In

Jordan, labour is cheap, infrastructure is good, land is cheap and the legislation is much better than in the Palestinian Authority.

They're much more open to Israeli investors than Egypt or the Palestinians." Unofficially, Israel is estimated to have invested nearly \$50 million in Jordan, mainly in textile and apparel plants, although there are other businesses like batteries and software.

Between 2,500 and 3,000 jobs have been created.

Economic ties, however, remain a sensitive issue in Jordan and to a lesser extent in Israel.

Eli Kazhdan, a senior adviser to Israeli Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, said that every time the government takes measures to open trade, it is barraged by complaints from manufacturers about competition.

In Jordan, the complaints have a political tinge that has grown darker as Middle East peacemaking has stalled under Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

As a result, officials said, many Israeli companies keep a low profile in Jordan; in many cases their Jordanian partners deny they have any ties with Israel at all.

"My hope is that after every joint venture is signed, Israeli politicians don't shout about it," Feiler said. "These things should be

done quietly." On the trade side, Israeli exports to Jordan amounted to just \$25 million last year, up 25 per cent from 1997, while Israeli imports from Jordan grew 37 per cent to \$17 million.

Feiler said two-way trade could grow to \$350 million over the next six years. But officials said the volume would remain small because the two economies were mismatched.

With per capita gross domestic product of \$17,200, Israel is in the same league as western European economies. Jordan's per capita GDP is about \$1,300 a year.

As a result, many Jordanian exports to Israel go on to the Palestinian areas.

"Most of Jordan's trade today is with other Arab countries, so the Palestinian market is more appropriate for them," said Mandy Barak, director of the international trade division at the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce.

Israeli officials said the government had taken unilateral steps to lower duties, but they said Jordan's high-priority was access to the Palestinian market.

"Part of the problem is that the Palestinians are not always excited about Jordan exports. They are two economies competing with each other because they produce the same goods," Kazhdan said.

Nine global auto firms announce new alliance

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Nine global automakers have announced the formation of a new trade association to represent their common interests.

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers groups U.S.-based Ford and General Motors, Germany's BMW, Volkswagen and DaimlerChrysler, Volvo of Sweden and Mazda, Nissan and Toyota of Japan.

The Alliance replaces the American Automobile Manufacturers Association, which ceased to function Dec. 31.

The association had been limited to GM, Ford and Chrysler, prior to the latter's merger with Daimler-Benz of Germany.

Peter Pestillo, vice chairman of Ford Motor Company, will serve as chairman of the Alliance in its first year.

Vice chairman will be Thomas Gale, a DaimlerChrysler executive vice president.

"We have a special commitment to improving the environment and motor vehicle safety," said Pestillo.

"A major emphasis will be to convey this commitment as well as the industry's accomplishments and positions on public policy issues to the public, the government and other interested parties," he added.

British Post Office buys German Parcel in first big foreign acquisition

LONDON (AFP) — The British Post Office has agreed to buy German Parcel, the third largest private carrier in Germany, under a new regime of commercial freedom announced by the government last month.

Post Office chairman Neville Bain said in a statement: "An acquisition of this kind is a key first step in our strategy of becoming one of the top global distribution companies."

John Roberts, the chief executive, said that the deal was "the first tangible outcome of the commercial freedoms announced for the post office."

In December, the then trade and industry secretary announced greater commercial liberty for the Post Office, which is state-owned and has a monopoly on basic mail, but said that full privatisation was "unrealistic."

"This major international acquisition shows the commitment of the government and the Post Office to move quickly to implement the radical package of reforms announced last December," said recently appointed Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Stephen Byers.

German Parcel, which has annual sales of 350 million euros (\$400 million), also comes with a 23 per cent stake in General Parcel, an international company with services in 30 European countries, vastly enhancing the British Post Office's distribution network.

The Post Office would not reveal the price it paid for the private company.

The Post Office is one of the few remaining nationalised businesses in Britain and faces, along with its counterparts in other European countries, increasing pressure to adapt to the growing deregulation of the monopoly system.

Roberts told a London press conference said that the German purchase "will allow us to develop overseas markets to take up the challenges of postal liberalisation."

Roberts said that parcel business had been hit by the worldwide economic slowdown, but that with competition sharply heating between the once-cooed-on European postal services, further acquisitions were on the horizon.

"The strategy is for the British Post Office to become one of the key players in Europe," he said, underlining that to achieve this the Post Office must keep extending its reach.

"We have to take at least as many as our competitors," he said. "We have a number of companies we'd like to think about. At any point in time, we're probably looking at five or six things that might be of interest to us."

He said that the Post Office had previously been frustrated that its hands were tied by the government, but that its commercial freedom was now bearing fruit.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1999

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Hang on to your money today. You'll want to spend it on something fun, like going skiing. You might even decide to liquidate your assets and live on the slope forever. The temptations are intense, but the risks are high. A good idea today is best left right where it is, as a good idea, not a call to action.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Go along with a partner's whim today, especially if it has to do with your home, family or a household item. Real estate is also an adventure to get into only with your partner's support. He or she has strong ideas about how things ought to be done, and today, you'd be a fool to argue.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) While you think you're doing a great job, you could actually be upsetting someone else. Just to be safe, keep checking to make sure you're on the right track. You know you are, but what you're really asking is whether you're doing what the other person wants. It's important for you to be of service, even while you're being brilliant.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) This could be a rough day for some people, but it'll be neat for you. You've got a grand time in water signs. You can't look out in the sky and see it, but we know that it's there. At any rate, when this formation happens, you get very lucky, and this time you're lucky in love. Make the best of it.

LEO: (July 23 to August 22) The sun is in Aquarius and the moon is in Scorpio. If you're stuck with a problem at home, maybe what you're missing is advice from a person who's job it is to save money, or bring it in. It's not the money you need so much right now. It's just a little bit of objective perspective.

VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) You may find it difficult to think today. You have a tendency to stop and ponder and strategise, and that's important right now. If you don't get anything else done today except setting up your schedule for next month, you'll still be money ahead. If you hurry into a poorly planned project, you'll just make more work for yourself.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Money is your focus today, and you might as well get aggressive about it. Are you being paid what you're worth? If you're not, it's

nobody's fault but your own. You need to raise your rates, up your prices or change jobs. If your skills are in demand, then people will be willing to pay more for them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You're strong, determined, energetic, good looking, and you're running into a problem. It looks like an intellectual type is giving you a world of grief. Luckily, you've got plenty of support from someone who loves you. Maybe that's the key. What you can't get by being pushy, maybe you can get by being nice. It's worth a try.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Something you're trying to accomplish is not getting through, as if the other person simply isn't listening. Perhaps you're not communicating effectively. One of the most important aspects of communication, of course, is listening. So instead of trying to explain today, ask leading questions. Ask what the other person wants.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Looks like what you and your committee want is not available now. Apparently it'll take a little more planning, a little more research, and possibly a few more fund-raisers. Don't despair. Necessity is the mother of invention, and this dilemma could lead to a brand new idea. Might as well look at it like that.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 18) An older person wants to order you around. That's ridiculous, of course. You know everything, but this other person doesn't seem to care. He or she just wants the power. Once you understand that, the situation will be easier to deal with. Just say "yes, sir" or "yes, ma'am," and bow and scrape a bit. You'll save yourself a lot of trouble.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) You're so idealistic that sometimes it's difficult to pick one idea and stick with it. Its easier to focus today, and as you do that, you may discover there are problems to overcome between where you are and where you want to go. Nothing is the first step in solving those problems, and you can do that. Start by making a list of them.

Birthstone of February:
Amethyst — Onyx

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Arab, Israeli press hail achievements of King Hussein



U.S. President Bill Clinton and his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak walk in the funeral procession of King Hussein, who was buried, on Monday in Amman. Kings, presidents, sheikhs and sultans from around the world attended the state funeral of the 63-year-old late Monarch, who died on Monday in Amman, after a seven-month-long battle against cancer (AFP photo)



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu walks past Jordanian pipers, while attending the funeral of King Hussein in Amman, on Monday (AP photo)



Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz attends the funeral of King Hussein, on Monday in Amman. Kings, presidents, sheikhs and sultans from around the world attended the state funeral of the late Monarch, who died on Sunday in Amman, after a seven-month-long battle against cancer (AFP photo)

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab and Israeli press on Monday paid a vibrant tribute to King Hussein and offered his successor support, in an unusual show of unanimity.

But the Arab press warned the new monarch, King Abdullah, to beware of Israeli "minefields" and urged him to uphold his father's heritage and particularly his efforts for peace.

"There is no doubt that King Abdullah will be

confronted with mines sown by [Israeli Prime Minister] Benjamin Netanyahu on the road to peace," wrote Egyptian editor Samir Ragab, a confidant of President Hosni Mubarak.

"But I believe that by taking advantage of Egypt's experience with Israel, a united stand and common policy, he will prove that Jordan, like all Arab countries, will accept only a comprehensive and just peace," he said.

"He will never accept to give up Jerusalem," Ragab said.

The Israeli press bid King Hussein farewell in an extraordinary display of emotion, describing him as a "friend."

One of the most passionate eulogies, was carried on the front page of the Yediot Aharonot, Israel's biggest selling newspaper, where Eitan Haber, the closest aide to the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin wrote: If they place one

thousand flowers on his grave, one of them will be mine. If a thousand tears wet his last resting place, one of them was mine."

"If kings, presidents and heads of state will crowd around the pile of

earth which covers your eyes, I will wait till they go away. You always had time for friends, now the friends have time to pay you the respect due to kings."

Syria's official press announced the death of

the 63-year-old Monarch without commentary, unlike the Arab Gulf press that mourned the King who died Sunday after a seven months battle with cancer.

"King Hussein was one of the leading figures of the peace process, and a historic symbol to which Jordan and the Arab World can be proud," the Saudi daily Al Yawm said.

"He left the world after making Jordan respected by others, he played an important role in finding wise and judi-

cious solutions to the most complicated political and economic questions," the daily said.

"He left the world at peace with all Arab and Islamic states, and all the countries friendly with Jordan," it said.

The Qatari daily Al Watan stressed that "a page of Jordanian, Arab and world history has been turned with the death of King Hussein, whose extraordinary skills have been recognised today across the planet."

The semi-official United Arab Emirates

Al Ittihad newspaper appeared only in black and white Monday, with all other colours taken out as a sign of mourning.

"His ability to cross minefields and to face dramatic changes, inspired admiration from those who disagreed with him and those who supported him," the daily said.

"His death leaves a void difficult to fill. Arabs are called on to support the new king, Abdullah, to surmount these difficult circumstances," it said.

World's papers discuss future of Jordan



Britain's Prince Charles walks with Spain's Crown Prince Felipe during funeral ceremonies for King Hussein attended by more than forty world leaders on Monday (AP photo)



German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder offers his condolences to new King Abdullah, as Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair waits in line, during funeral ceremonies Monday for King Hussein, which was attended by more than 40 world leaders (AP photo)

LONDON (R) — Newspapers around the world saluted the late King Hussein as a unique peacemaker and said the loss of such a pivotal leader raised crucial questions for Jordan and the Middle East peace process.

As royals, presidents and premiers gathered in Amman on Monday to bury King Hussein, who died of cancer a day earlier after ruling for 47 years, newspaper editorials praised him as a force for stability in the volatile region.

Papers focused on how King Hussein's death would affect the region where he strove to balance such diverse interests and what challenges faced the new King Abdullah, King Hussein's military-trained eldest son.

"The often turbulent nature of Middle East politics will soon test Abdullah's mettle," Britain's Times newspaper said.

"From the start, King Hussein was convinced of the need to maintain a balance in his country between groups which were not natural allies," said De Volkskrant of the Netherlands.

"No other Arab leader could expect both [PLO President] Yasser Arafat and [Israel's Premier] Bibi Netanyahu to shed a tear at his grave," it added.

"Goodbye to a friend" and "Goodbye to a King" read headlines in Israel's biggest newspapers in tribute.

The depth of feeling caused in some parts of the Arab World by King Hussein's 1994 peace deal with Israel also surfaced. In Tehran, hardline Iranian newspapers attacked Hussein's policies.

Lebanon's pro-Syrian Al Safir, in a front-page editorial, lambasted what it described as U.S. hegemony over Jordan.

But papers said King Abdullah, 37, faced an improved outlook.

"Jordan's future in the troubled region of the Middle East will not be easy, though today it is



French President Jacques Chirac attends King Hussein's funeral Monday. More than forty world leaders arrived in Amman to pay their respects to the late King (AP photo)

more promising than it was a few years ago," said the Catalan paper La Vanguardia in Spain.

"When today in Amman leaders as varied as Clinton, Arab leaders both moderate and progressive, and Israel's leaders, gather to bid their last farewell to King Hussein, it will be clear that the world has changed," it added.

Britain's Guardian newspaper noted the

diplomatic minefield caused by bringing old enemies together at the graveside.

"King Hussein's funeral looked likely to become the backdrop for some multilateral summitry and a few awkward encounters as President Clinton and (British Premier) Tony Blair rub shoulders with some of their bitterest enemies," it said.

The United Arab

Emirate's Al Khaleej Arabic language daily said that people might differ on King Hussein's policies but they must agree on the unique role he played.

"Over nearly 50 years, King Hussein knew how to preserve the throne and Jordanian unity, leaving a legacy of Arab and international relations no one else could achieve," it said.

Hussein's role as a

gifted mediator was acclaimed.

"King Hussein was able to maintain dialogue with opposition and his opponents in his country and did the same with other Arabs and foreigners," said Bahrain's Arabic-language Al Ayam.

The Saudi Gazette, along with other papers, praised the smooth transition to the new King.

Hussein

In the foreground, the King of Jordan is seen in a close-up shot, looking down with a somber expression. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a formal event or ceremony.

The King of Jordan is seen in a close-up shot, looking down with a somber expression. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a formal event or ceremony.

Jordan



The King of Jordan is seen in a close-up shot, looking down with a somber expression. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a formal event or ceremony.



World leaders pay their respects:
(clockwise from left)
Former Israeli Prime Minister
Shimon Peres; Israel's delegation:
Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, Chief
Rabbi Yisrael Lau, Israeli Foreign
Minister Ariel Sharon (second row
right), Israeli Defence Minister
Moshe Arens (wearing glasses), and
Israel's former Prime Minister
Shimon Peres (bottom right);
Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito;
Yemeni President Ali Abdallah
Saleh and U.S. President Bill Clinton;
Prime Minister Wim Kok
and Queen Beatrix
of the Netherlands

(Photos by Agencies)

The British Ladies of Amman
Extend to
His Majesty King Abdullah,
The Hashemite Family and
the Jordanian people,
Deepest sympathy on the passing
of His Majesty
King Hussein Ben Talal
May God Rest His Soul

